

Dewar loses his self-rule in argument on devolution

It was uncharacteristic of Donald Dewar to mis-judge his man, or his moment. At most times a surefooted politician, in Opposition a shrewd Chief Whip and in Government as sharp-witted a Cabinet minister as they come, the Scottish Secretary can normally be relied upon to choose his words with care. But two intemperate answers at Scottish Questions yesterday suggested that the stress of organising devolution is beginning to tell.

His Tory shadow, Michael

Ancram, made a serious point about Scottish devolution. Mr Ancram, a moderate and gentlemanly Scot, sits for an English seat. Dewar tried a sarcastic put-down, regretting that Ancram was out of touch with Scotland, having lost his seat there. This drew laughs from backbenchers, but missed its target.

Dewar may come to regret his other jibe. Tam Dalyell is neither ignorant nor ill-intentioned. The veteran Labour MP for Linlithgow is a force to be reckoned with. During

abortive attempts by the last Labour Government to create a Scottish Assembly, Mr Dalyell was among the leaders of the cross-party effort to scupper the plan. He has not declared himself against this Government's proposals, but we know he is sceptical.

Dalyell's method, in this as

in any of his parliamentary crusades, is to become an expert on the subject in question, find the weak points in ministers' arguments, and then wear them down with an unceasing barrage of often

technical questions. He does not filibuster; he is not long-winded and never rude. He just keeps on asking the questions ministers do not want to hear. Mr Dalyell chips away both at their case and their confidence.

Opinion is divided as to whether he won his long battle with Margaret Thatcher over

which way the Argentine General Belgrano was steaming when British missiles sank her. He certainly made her life a misery.

The jury is still out over whether successive British Governments have been right to blame the Libyans for the Lockerbie bombing, or whether (as Dalyell claims) Libya

has been framed, but there is no doubt that by sheer persistence and minute questioning, he has moved the argument Libya's way. And nobody doubts his role in wrecking Scottish devolution plans in the 70s.

Now Dalyell seems to have got badly under Donald Dewar's skin. He asked Mr Dewar (now it seemed a new building was to be commissioned, rather than an existing one used, for the Scottish Parliament) who was going to pay.

Mr Dewar adopted the lem-

homework. Second, you will provoke him into doing even more homework, and throwing the results at you every time you appear at the Dispatch Box. If this sketch knows the Member for Linlithgow, he will at that moment have resolved henceforward to eat, sleep and breathe the finances of a new building for the Scottish Parliament.

Dalyell spent the rest of the session with his head sunk in his hands, deep in thought. Dewar has not heard the last of this.

Irvine considers curbs on fees of 'fat cat' QCs

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor is planning to curb lawyers' fees, by regulating "fat cat" QCs' earnings from legal aid and inflating fees for private work.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, sharply attacked £1 million-a-year lawyers in a speech in the House of Lords on Monday. Yesterday Lord Irvine, who by his own admission was himself a top-earning QC until Labour won the general election, was attacked by a Tory MP over a proposed refurbishment of his official residence at a cost of £650,000.

The Lord Chancellor is reconsidering the principle that the "winner takes all". Litigants in the civil courts can recoup most of their costs from the losing side after winning a legal action. Lord Irvine is examining capping how much people can recover, instead.

The move, floated by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, in his civil justice report last year, would indirectly bring pressure to bear on lawyers' charges. If a £2,500 costs limit was set for disputes involving sums up to £10,000, people would be less willing to pay much higher sums in legal fees.

Lord Irvine is also preparing plans which might be included in a Bill during the next session for curbs on the earnings of QCs who can make six-figure sums from criminal legal aid work. This could include setting prescribed rates, as exist for other kinds of legal aid work.

No decisions will be made until Sir Peter Middleton, a former Treasury official, reports on legal aid and civil justice this autumn.

On Monday night, responding to concern expressed by Lord Ackner, the former law lord, that higher court fees were restricting the rights of access of litigants of modest means, Lord Irvine said: "Fat cat lawyers railing at the

inequity of court fees do not attract the sympathy of the public." He spoke scathingly of the "significant number of QCs who earn a million pounds per annum", adding that "many would describe half a million pounds in one year as representing a very bad year for them".

He said it was "staggering" that of the total criminal legal aid budget of £506 million, the top 1 per cent of criminal cases consumed 24 per cent of the total.

Yesterday Gerald Howarth, the Conservative MP for Aldershot, accused the Lord Chancellor of "rank hypocrisy" in making his remarks while planning a reported £650,000 "tarting up" of his House of Lords residence at the taxpayers' expense.

Officials pointed out that the refurbishment, which has yet to be agreed by the Works Committee of the Lords, was part of a project to preserve the fabric of the Palace of Westminster and not a matter of expenditure by Lord Irvine.

Lord Irvine also drew attacks from the Bar, who said that fees earned by a handful of top lawyers (and not the

majority) were irrelevant to the issue of increased court fees and would not affect access to justice for those of modest means.

Robert Owen, QC, the Bar chairman, accepted that some commercial lawyers — both solicitors and barristers, earned high fees which they commanded in the open market. But the real deterrent to people using the courts was court fees themselves, as evidence to the Public Accounts Committee had shown before this year's increases, he said.

He added that QCs' legal aid earnings were approved by taxing masters in the courts as "fair and reasonable", nor seen by lawyers.

If the Lord Chancellor wants to reduce these fees significantly, it must follow that a lower level would not be fair and reasonable. Nor would it affect the earnings of the top commercial silks because it is entirely a matter for their private clients how to spend their money."

Yesterday a Law Society spokesman said QCs' legal aid fees were almost unregulated.

"There are no prescribed scales for QCs' fees in civil or matrimonial work and they are paid at 'market rates'."

Tony Girling, president of the society, said all lawyers had to accept the principle of "proportionality" in fees. In criminal legal aid, he said the society's view was that QCs only doing criminal legal aid work should earn the same as a hospital consultant was paid by the health service.

Russell Wallman, head of policy at the society, said it was not opposed in principle to setting a cap on legal costs which litigants could recover but that a fair fee must be ensured.

The furor is likely to fuel

the case for a review of the whole QC system.

Irvine: criticised by Conservative MP



The Princess soaking up the sun in St Tropez yesterday

Princess denies she has surprise in store

By ALAN HAMILTON

A TRAIL of confusion was left by Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday as she and her sons continued their holiday with Mohamed Al Fayed.

Her office at Kensington Palace, acting on her instructions, denied that she told reporters on Monday of a forthcoming surprise announcement about her future.

The journalists, whom she confronted from a speedboat, believed that she was suggesting she may be planning to live abroad.

Yesterday her London office tried to pour cold water on the speculation: "Her pur-

pose in talking to some journalists was merely to inquire how long they intended to remain in the South of France, as the oppressive media presence was causing great distress to all the children. There was no discussion of the possibility of any state-moment being issued in the future."

Yesterday the Princess was on the beach in full view of reporters and photographers. She and Prince William and Prince Harry have been staying with the Harrods chairman and his family at his villa in St Tropez.

Catholic girl shot at Protestant boy's home

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN 18-year-old Catholic girl died yesterday after she was shot by a loyalist gunman as she slept at the home of her Protestant boyfriend.

Detectives said they feared that the shooting in the hardline loyalist village of Aghalee, Co Antrim, may have been sectarian. A man was arrested in the village yesterday by armed RUC officers.

Bernadette Martin, who had been going out with Gordon Green for a year, died in hospital after she was shot four times in the head at around 4am by a gunman who entered the house by an unlocked back door. She was asleep in a bed next to her boyfriend's sister. Mr Green was elsewhere in the house. She died yesterday afternoon in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Detectives said they were working on a number of motives for the attack. However, fears grew last night that loyalists may have shot the teenager. Aghalee is close to Portadown, Co Armagh, the base of a new hardline terrorist group known as the Loyalist Volunteer Force.

Aghalee is a notoriously hardline loyalist village. Although Mr Green is popular among Miss Martin's Catholic friends, some of his neighbours frequently shouted sectarian abuse at her.

Miss Martin lived on a mixed housing estate in Craigavon, Co Armagh, about ten miles from her boyfriend's house. The couple met about a year ago at a food processing factory in Lurgan where they worked.

The shooting was hours before loyalist politicians held their first meeting with Tony Blair since the election. Gary McMichael, the leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, the political wing of the Ulster Defence Association, described the death of Miss Martin as a tragedy.

'New building' for Scottish parliament

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, admitted for the first time yesterday that a new purpose-built assembly might have to be constructed for the planned Scottish parliament. He told MPs that the Old Royal High School building in Edinburgh, the expected site of the new legislature, might not be big enough. Mr Dewar said: "The Government has not ruled out the Royal High School but we are conscious of its shortcomings as a possible site and we want to look at other options."

Mr Dewar also confirmed that the White Paper on Scottish Devolution will be published on July 24, two days after that on Welsh devolution. They had been delayed by disagreement in Cabinet over power sharing.

Sheppard tax call

The Bishop of Liverpool, Dr David Sheppard, yesterday called on the Government to create more jobs and raise taxes to solve the problem of unemployment. In his valedictory address to the General Synod of the Church of England before he retires in September, he said that Christians must be mobilised to act, argue and lobby on "one of the great issues in human affairs".

Paper fined £50,000

The *News of the World* was fined £50,000 yesterday over an article which caused a criminal trial to be abandoned. The paper was found guilty of contempt of court after a story headlined "We smash £100 million fake cash ring" allowed two alleged counterfeit money dealers to walk free. The paper, working with police, had conducted an investigation and named two men it alleged were master forgers.

BA delays continue

British Airways will not return to normal operations until Monday, more than a week after the end of the three-day strike by cabin crew. With 1,500 cabin crew still off sick, the airline says that it is not able to operate more than 60 per cent of short-haul and 75 per cent of long-haul services from Heathrow. The final cost of the strike is estimated at between £50 million and £200 million. BA turbulence, page 25

Crash mother home

A woman injured in a crash which killed her husband and two young sons has left Basildon Hospital, Essex, with her baby boy who was born just hours after the accident. Sue Cole, 35, suffered multiple injuries in the crash near the family home at Chadwell St Mary, Essex, on June 29. Steven Murray, 25, of East Tilbury, has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving and taking a vehicle.

'Bodies' artist charged

A sculptor and tutor at the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture has been charged with stealing body parts for use in his sculpture shows, Scotland Yard said yesterday. Anthony Noel Kelly, 41, a cousin of the Duke of Norfolk, from Brixton, south London, and Niel Lindsay, 24, a former mortuary assistant, will appear at Horseshoe Road Magistrates' Court on August 15.



Tall story for scientists

A gene which may explain why men are generally taller than women has been discovered by scientists. They believe it switches on in boys in puberty, causing growth spurts. It may also control hair growth, muscle weight and fatness. The New Zealand researchers think the gene — STAT5b — may have important implications for treating dwarfism and could be used in farming to boost wool and meat production.

Overalls saved lift man

A worker escaped death when a lift he was working on at the Langham Hotel in London hurtled into the basement. His overalls caught on a projection in the lift shaft and he came to rest 12 inches from the floor. Southwark Crown Court was told. Hilton International Hotels (UK) Ltd denies failing to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees.

Woodhead orders inspectors to write tougher reports on teachers

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS will be graded individually from September under a change to school inspection that will place in doubt the future of thousands of staff.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, announced yesterday that teachers will be judged on a three-point scale in confidential reports to heads. The system would contribute to an acceleration in the dismissal of incompetent staff. Inspectors have proved reluctant to pick out the worst teachers under a scheme introduced last year. The new plans will force them to make judgements on all the lessons they see and head teachers will be given a profile of teaching performance.

About 10 per cent of the lessons observed by inspectors last year came into

the bottom category to be used in the new regime. The figure suggests that far more than the 13,000 teachers estimated by Mr Woodhead to be incompetent will be reported to heads by the time all schools have been inspected again.

Teachers' leaders claimed that the ratings were crude and unfair, aimed at encouraging the dismissal of weak staff.

But Mr Woodhead said the grades would add to the management information

available to heads and governors. "I think there is a stiffening of the management culture, which will see more teachers who are not up to the job being tackled about their performance," he said. "But this is just one part of the jigsaw for head teachers, albeit an important and absolutely justifiable piece."

The announcement appeared to take

Prince and Brown in pleas for young

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Prince of Wales and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, last night put the seal on the relationship between the Prince and new Labour when they forged a partnership to help the young unemployed,

appealing to leading business-

men to back them.

The two men were brought together by Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive of the Prudential, who is chairman of one of the Prince's charities, Business in the Community, and chairman of Mr Brown's Welfare to Work taskforce.

The joint approach to help

youngsters trapped in the dependency culture is believed to have been arranged at two recent meetings between the Prince and Tony Blair.

Last night the Prince and Mr Brown did not share a platform for speeches, but they met informally at a drinks reception for more than 200 business leaders, as a joint display of support. The Prince had launched a new awards scheme for companies which invest in communities, and Mr Brown appealed to business chiefs to join his crusade, to offer a new deal, and to second high-flying staff to the employment service to help administer the plan.



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Just in Time

Fashion world stunned by Versace murder

FROM TUNUKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK AND
STAFF REPORTERS

FRIENDS: models and admirers of Gianni Versace reacted with immense sadness to his death yesterday.

The designer Bruce Oldfield summed up the mood: "This is just not what you would expect in the fashion business, this just doesn't happen. Gianni always went for the grand entrance — the most 'here I am' dress, the sexiest dress that was available. He was uncompromisingly glitz."

But he added: "He was a modest man and liked to laugh and to poke fun at himself."

Vivienne Westwood said: "Versace's death is a very great tragedy and a deep shock. He was obviously one of the most talented and famous designers of the last few years."

Emanuel Ungaro, a colleague, paid tribute to Mr Versace, saying that: "Gianni has left his mark on our times, with his vitality and joyful way of being. He has enriched all of our worlds. He was a genius in communicating".

Mary Quant described Mr Versace as being "all about life". She said: "His designs were immediately recognisable as rich, glamorous and sexy. He dared to use a strong dash of vulgarity just beautifully. He was a man adored by everyone".

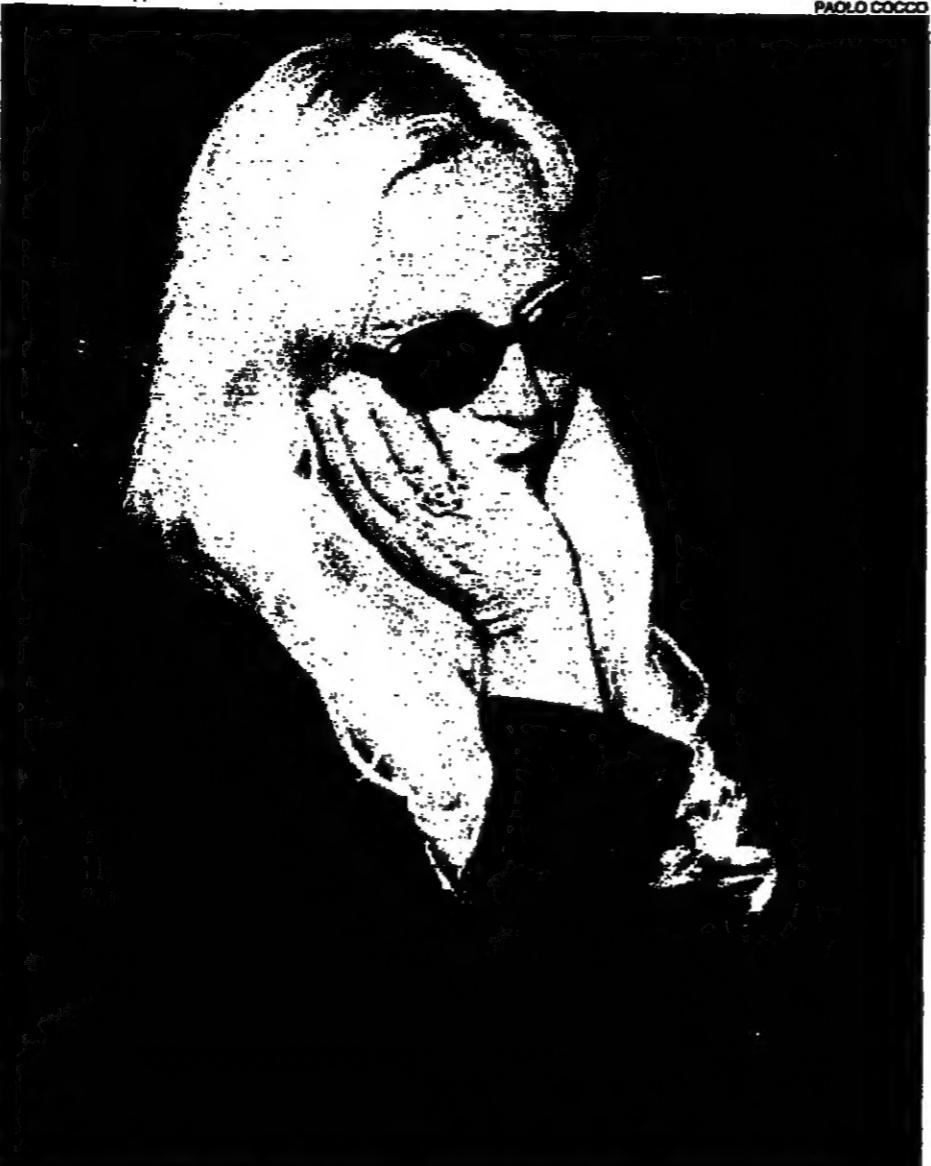
The model Kate Moss said she was "stunned" and "at a complete loss for words". Claudia Schiffer, who also modelled for him, said: "Words cannot describe how much I will miss him. He was not only a gifted and talented designer who was extraordinary to work with but was also such a wonderful and caring man. He will be missed greatly by all of his friends and everyone in the industry."

Elton John said: "The world has lost a wonderful creative genius, and I have lost a very dear friend."

Elizabeth Hurley, who hurried to fame in a skimpy dress made by the couturier, said that she was going to "miss him horribly". She said: "He was very kind and lovely to me. He will be hideously missed by everyone."

The editor of *Vogue*, Alexandra Shulman, said: "Gianni Versace was one of the most important innovators of the

Tributes flow for modest man crowned king of glitz



Donatella Versace, the designer's sister, leaving a hotel in Rome yesterday

century. He understood that fashion must be exciting, glamorous and always new.

His death is a great shock and a huge loss to the industry."

Lisa Marie Presley, the daughter of Elvis Presley, said that she was going to "miss him horribly". She said: "He was completely heartbroken over the tragedy".

Ms Presley, who wore more Versace than most people, said: "Gianni was a sure talent, a genius as a designer and, more importantly, a wonderful friend

whose warmth and generosity

I will miss terribly".

Boy George, who played the music for Versace's penultimate catwalk show in Milan, said: "I have worked with him on many occasions and he was nothing but a complete gentleman".

Speaking yesterday in New York, Cindy Weber-Cleary, the fashion director for *Glamour* magazine, said: "There is only a handful of designers who really influence and in-

spire the whole fashion community and he was one of the top.

He was famous for dressing celebrities and rock stars.

They loved him for his colourful, spirited, energetic designs. In fact, he was one of the most knocked-off designers."

Jacques Mouclier, President of the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture, the governing body of French fashion, also mourned Mr Versace's death. He declared: "We admitted him as an unofficial member

SPAIN/MICHAEL LESHTAY/ALPHA

of our body, even though he didn't create in Paris. He has really influenced fashion for years now. It was astonishing how he put clothes in focus with his use of models. He beautified women with a touch of modernism".

The British designer Caroline Charles said: "I think that he was a fabulous designer who just got better and better with every season."

"He became more beautiful, more sensuous, more exquisite all the time. He knew how to dress a woman. He was one of the few people who knew how to incorporate underwear into slinky little dresses."

She added: "All women longed to wear his clothes, and you really could wear them."

As news of Versace's death spread through the fashion world, mourning fans congregated at his flagship store in New Bond Street, London. Flowers were laid at the doors of the shop which had been closed as a mark of respect. Kerry-Anne Donner, 22, a fashion student from Tel Aviv, said: "I rushed here as soon as I heard the news. I am devastated. Every stitch I own is Versace".

Robin Dun, 35, a freelance stylist and fashion writer heard the news as he was shopping in New Bond Street. "I met Versace a couple of times. He always struck me as a larger than life character, quite fearsome in a way, dark and brooding," he said. He added: "When someone like that dies it leaves a vacuum. He was not to everyone's taste and but he did things with a boldness and a brashness. You felt like you knew him well through his clothes."

When Versace first appeared on the staid Milan fashion scene in the late 1970s, he made some wince with his bright colors and hip-hugging styles. But the son of a seamstress soon became a favorite with rock and film stars, who loved his racy, glitz clothes. Whether the company can keep generating the glitz without Versace, who was fatally shot Tuesday, is up for debate.

Much speculation will fall on the designer's immediate family: His brother, Santo, is president of the company and his sister, Donatella, helped develop the Versus line.

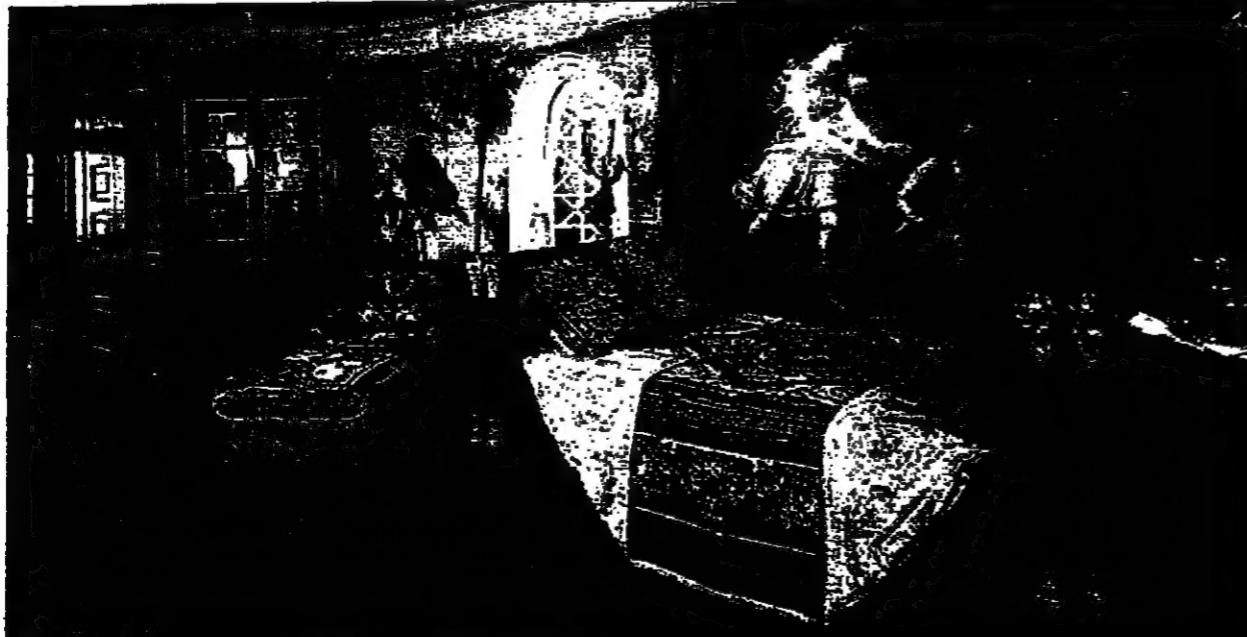
Santo "has to prove himself next year," said fashion industry consultant Michael Swift.



Model of style: Gianni Versace with Claudia Schiffer and Naomi Campbell



Versace with his brother Santo, top left, and sister, Donatella, bottom left, and their families. His home in Miami, above right and below, was furnished in the extravagant style for which he became famous



Fashion finale may be cancelled

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

TOP models in Rome were last night reluctant to go ahead with the finale of the annual *haute couture* shows on the Spanish Steps tonight.

The Rome Chamber of Fashion Designers and the Rome Chamber of Commerce were meeting to consider cancelling *Donna Sotto le Stelle* (Women Under The Stars) after the murder of Gianni Versace. There were also reports that RAI, the state-run television, was considering cancelling coverage if the event went ahead.

The main Italian homosexual rights group, Arcigay, announced that it was in mourning for Versace, who has been described by Franco Grillini, the group's president, as a hero for having been one

of the first homosexuals among Italian public figures to make known his sexual orientation. Signor Grillini speculated that the murder could have been the work of religious fanatics in America.

Giorgio Napolitano, the Interior Minister, said Italian investigators were trying to determine the exact circumstances of the killing in collaboration with American counterparts. "One fact is certain," he said. "In the United States, as in Europe, there is a great deal of violence, even if the causes of crime are different."

The designer's sister, Donatella, and his brother, Santo, who ran the business side of the Versace empire, left for Miami yesterday after learning of his death.

The Versace empire was caught up in the *Mani Pulite* (Clean Hands) crack-

down of the early 1990s on routine corruption in Italian civic life, and Santo Versace is appealing against a conviction for bribing tax inspectors in a case that implicated several of Italy's prominent fashion designers. His younger brother was not charged in the case.

The murder of Gianni Versace is the second death of a major Italian player in the world of *haute couture* in almost as many years. In March, 1995, the fashion magnate Maurizio Gucci was shot dead as he arrived for work at his office in Milan. His two assassins made their escape in rush-hour traffic.

Initially, detectives believed the Mafia might have been responsible. However, last February, Maurizio's ex-wife Patrizia Reggiani was arrested and charged with the murder.

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to page 27.

Just in time

PETER NICHOLLS

Royal date for golden couples whose love lasted

Survival secrets of 50-year marriages varied at a special party. Alan Hamilton and Mark Henderson report

EIGHT thousand survivors of one of life's challenges joined the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at a special garden party in the grounds of Buckingham Palace yesterday, with no simple formula for staying married for half a century.

In the postwar austerity of 1947, Princess Elizabeth married Lt Philip Mountbatten, RN, handsome but essentially penniless war hero, at Westminster Abbey. To mark their golden wedding, they invited all surviving 1947 couples to apply to join them in the palace grounds.

Of 400,000 couples married in that year, 40,000 applied, and were whittled down in ballots held by lord lieutenants in individual counties. Unsuccessful applicants were sent a royal message of congratulation.

Yesterday's party, blessed with warm, dry weather, was conducted rather more informally than the usual events on the palace lawn. The Queen and the Duke spent longer mingling with the crowds on the lawn as they made their way to the tea tent, where they had a private meeting with 17 couples who married on the same day as themselves — November 20.

No agreed formula emerged for staying together. Tommy Lee, 74, and his wife Dorothy, 71, from Cardiff, said: "You have to have a good row now and again. It clears the air and lets you get on with loving each other."

Beverley McKeever, 74, and

her husband Jimmy, 77, from Glasgow, were not sure of the reason for their success. Mrs McKeever said she had never looked at another man since meeting her husband when she tripped over a ledge at the printing company where they both worked. But Mr McKeever, a veteran of Dunkirk, confessed: "I still look after a nice bit of leg from time to time."

Mrs McKeever interrupted to insist that he could not do that; "she was the boss." What is really important is that you marry the person you love. If you don't, like Princess Margaret, look how you land up. I felt so sorry for her as she was stopped from marrying the man in her life."

Many couples from the Commonwealth attended the party. Michael Szumlanski, 74, and his wife Joyce, 68, from Ontario, met at the end of the war, she a nurse and he a serviceman being treated for a war wound. Mr Szumlanski said: "I kept badgering her to marry me, but she always said she had to ask her parents. Eventually, on 8 July 1947, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip announced their engagement, and that persuaded her."

Edward and Winifred Holden from Bingley, Yorkshire, met on a blind date at an RAF camp near Blackpool during the war. "I always remembered the advice the vicar gave me, but it was wrong," Mr Holden said. "He said it had to be 50-50 all the time. He was nearly right, but 75-25 to the

Leading article, page 19

Wall row ends with £280,000 bill for taxpayer

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN EIGHT-YEAR dispute between neighbours over a collapsed garden wall was finally settled in the Court of Appeal yesterday, at a cost of about £280,000 to the Legal Aid Fund.

Lord Justice Mummery spoke before giving judgment about his disappointment that an action had been pursued where the legal costs "far exceeded" the price of any damages that could have been claimed.

Donald and Audrey Perrin, a retired couple, spent their life savings of £20,000 on lawyers' and surveyors' bills after they were accused by neighbours of undermining a 100-year-old boundary wall with work on their bungalow.

They were granted legal aid last week when their savings ran out so that they could be represented at the appeal. The judges found that the Perrins had nothing to do with damage to the 40ft-long brick wall. They granted an order for costs which means the couple can reclaim the money spent on the appeal and earlier hearings from the neighbours, Richard and Alex Martin, who were on legal aid.

Lord Justice Simon Brown said: "Alas, the burden must fall on the legal aid fund." Mr and Mrs Perrin, of Brading, Isle of Wight, yesterday put up Union Jacks and a sign saying "We've Won", but victory was not entirely sweet.



Mrs James: concerned about animals' safety

Farm gate leads to a beastly dispute

By PAUL WILKINSON

A HIGH COURT judge will shortly be asked to decide who owns a roadside grass verge. Does it belong to the senior Barclays Bank executive whose detached house lies at the end of the private road? Or is it the property of the farmer whose land borders the lane on both sides?

Ken James, 49, and his wife, Dorothy, 48, believe the fate of their farm could hang on the court's decision, for it will determine whether a gate which keeps their stock off the main road can stay.

They say that over the past four years they have spent £10,000 on legal fees in argument with their neighbour, Bill Dempster, a Barclays area corporate manager based at Newcastle upon Tyne. Part of their court claim is £5,500 which, they say, was the cost of 800 yards of fencing they erected along the road and which, it is alleged, was torn down in 1993 by Mr Dempster's men.

The row flared up again last week when police escorted workmen sent to remove the gate at the end of the lane at Crumlington, Northumberland. Mrs James said: "The policeman said Bill Dempster had sent a letter authorising the removal of our stock-proof gate. He was there to make sure it happened without any problems."

Her husband said: "For a senior bank official to act like this over a gate and some fencing is incredible. To people on the outside this must look ridiculous, but to us it has become very nasty and very bitter."

Mr Dempster and his wife, Athene, have put their £275,000 home up for sale. He said: "I own the road and I also own the gateway, but it was not me who tried to have it removed, although I was asked about my ownership of it."

Just what your business needs, more free time.

Turn to page 27



Their day in the sun: romance still blossoms among couples at the Buckingham Palace garden party yesterday

But we won't be happy ever after in 2047

By IAN MURRAY

FIFTY years from now, barely 33,000 couples are forecast to reach their golden wedding anniversary, compared with this year's estimated 102,000.

The main reason is that there are only three quarters as many marriages, and not only are they much more likely to end in divorce, but many are taking place later in life, often among people marrying for a second time.

When she walked down the aisle, the Queen was 21, which was the

average age for brides in 1947. The average now is 23. In 1947, more than 85 per cent of the brides and grooms were marrying for the first time, compared with 71 per cent today.

There were more than 400,000 marriages in 1947, and about 28 per cent have survived 50 years. Fewer than 300,000 couples will marry this year, and only 11 per cent are expected to be together in 50 years, on current trends. Of those married in 1947, ten per cent have divorced. Of those who marry today, ten per cent will have divorced within five years.

Marjorie Thoburn, head of services

to couples at Relate, the national marriage guidance council, said that couples now enter marriage with a totally different perspective. "Women came out of war work looking for security and wanting to raise a family. Fifty years ago, they lacked the money and opportunities to leave the marriage. Nowadays expectations of lifestyle are higher because of the influence of television."

"Things so often go wrong because couples don't seem to realise that we all change as we get older, and we have to go on adapting. We have had a number of years when 'I want it now'

has been the order of the day. Maybe we don't have the wherewithal to realise that there ain't no such thing as the ideal perfect marriage. We have to modify our expectations to stay together."

The figures ignore the increasing number of people who are choosing to live together. One in five of non-married men and women were cohabiting in 1993, compared with one in seven ten years earlier. One in five of the relationships has lasted for at least seven years.

By the 2040s, there could be a call for golden non-wedding cards.

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Killings by mentally ill 'will continue'

Tragedies will recur unless care in community is improved, Alexandra Frean reports

KILLINGS and assaults by mentally ill people will continue unless care in the community is improved, leading mental health campaigners said yesterday.

The warning followed the publication of two independent inquiries which concluded that poor communications between caring agencies and inadequate training were partly responsible for violent acts by two mental patients.

A report by Croydon Health Authority into the case of Gilbert Pomeroy-Steckel, who twice discharged himself from a psychiatric hospital against medical advice, stabbed his mother to death and

committed suicide, blamed "an overwhelming failure of communications" between carers. Terry Handin, chief executive of the health authority, said that the deaths "could have been prevented". Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of the mental health charity SANE, said that the case was the worst of its kind she had encountered.

The Craydon report recommended that an out-of-hours crisis service be set up to cope with cases such as Steckel's, which reached a head during weekends or evenings.

Ms Wallace said: "Although [Steckel] was experiencing an acute

next day but asked to resume treatment a day later. Later that day he again discharged himself and returned home to South Norwood, where he stabbed his mother and cut his own throat. Mrs Steckel, 57, a teacher, had telephoned the hospital for help before the attack.

A separate inquiry published yesterday by Birmingham Health Authority and Birmingham City Council into the police shooting of a mentally ill man who held a supermarket manager hostage at knifepoint exonerated the professionals responsible for his care. David Howell was shot by police

last November two days after failing to take a monthly injection to suppress his schizophrenia.

The report made 14 recommendations about improving care, suggesting that the social services department and mental health trusts consider ways of closer collaboration "to ensure there is no danger of duplication or the passing of responsibility". An earlier inquest into the case found that West Midlands Police had used reasonable force against Mr Howell.

Ms Wallace said: "Inquiry after

inquiry show that lessons have not been learnt and that new measures are vital to ensure immediate care and treatment for those who need it, when they need it." She said that emergency procedures for admitting mentally ill patients who could be a danger to themselves or to others needed to be simplified and speeded up, and that it should be made compulsory for different agencies to inform each other of the full case histories of such patients.

She criticised the prevailing ideology among carers, which appeared to put the civil liberties of mentally ill patients before the safety of the general public.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dead girl's award to be challenged

A health authority has won the right to reclaim compensation paid to a disabled girl who died eight days after winning the settlement. A High Court judge granted Nottingham Health Authority leave to appeal against the award.

Hollie Calladine, 9, was left with a mental age of a few months after being starved of oxygen at birth. She died following a bout of epilepsy in May after the £700,000 award ended a nine-year legal battle. The authority sought a ruling on part of the award made for long-term care.

Shelf life

A shoplifter who admitted stealing a chicken and a bottle of wine asked Gloucester magistrates to consider 2,300 offences after his flat was found piled high with food. Andrew Rickards, 39, a factory worker, was remanded on bail for psychiatric reports.

Laundrette blast

Eight people were injured after an explosion and fire at a laundrette in Cheadle, Staffordshire. The building was gutted and flames spread to parked cars. Three people were being treated last night for severe burns and one was in critical condition.

Sex-change case

Transsexuals have won the legal right to challenge sex discrimination at work. The Employment Appeal Tribunal made the ruling after a sex-change woman's claim of harassment was referred to it by an industrial tribunal.

Car hits nurses

Three 19-year-old nursery nurses on a sponsored walk in memory of a friend who died of meningitis were seriously injured near Littlehampton, West Sussex, when they were hit by a car which skidded on oil and mounted the pavement.

Cats rescued

Jan Webb and her husband, Ady, who adopted a stray cat and three kittens while holidaying in Greece, brought them to Swindon, Wiltshire, at a cost of nearly £3,000 for quarantine and inoculations.



The subjects of extensive inquiry: Christopher Clunis, Anthony Smith, Wayne Hutchinson, Darren Carr and Stephen Laudat

40 inquiries under way into blunders

THERE are about 40 inquiries into mental health blunders under way at any one time. Their purpose is to reassure the public and to make recommendations about how the system can be improved.

The inquiries, usually chaired by QC's or eminent doctors, almost always reach similar conclusions about poor communications between agencies, lack of leadership and poor resources. They rarely result in sackings and their findings are not collated by any central government agency.

Recent inquiries include:

□ Christopher Clunis stabbed Jonathan Zito to death in December 1992. The inquiry report in February 1994 said that police, social workers, psychiatrists, the

Crown Prosecution Service, hostel staff and the probation service must share the blame.

□ Andrew Robinson stabbed Georgina Robinson, no relation, an occupational therapist, in Torquay, Devon, in September 1993. An inquiry said doctors had ignored Robinson's violent behaviour for 15 years and placed too much emphasis on the civil liberties of patients.

□ Martin Mursell, a 25-year-old paranoid schizophrenic, stabbed his stepfather to death in a frenzied knife attack and left his mother barely alive on 28 October 1994.

An inquiry ordered by Camden and Islington Health Authority said that Mursell had been failed by care professionals in a "fundamental and

depressing way".

□ Stephen Laudat, 26, a schizophrenic, stabbed stranger Bryan Bennett, 59, in a frenzied attack at a centre for mental patients in Newham, east London, in July 1994. An inquiry called for closer co-operation between health and local authorities.

□ Wayne Hutchinson, a paranoid schizophrenic who was released by mistake, was beaten and injured three times in Brixton, south London, over Christmas 1994. Lambeth

Community Care Trust ordered an inquiry, which is due to report this year.

□ Darren Carr set fire to the house of Susan Hearmon, where he was employed as a childminder, killing her and her two daughters, Kylie, six, and Julie Anne, four, on 26 June 1995. An inquiry commissioned by Berkshire Social Services, Oxfordshire and Oxford Social Services, published last month called for more medium-secure beds.

□ Anthony Smith, 24, stabbed his mother and 11-year-old half brother to death in 1995 a month after discharging himself from hospital. An inquiry ordered by Southern Derbyshire Health Trust blamed weak communications and a lack of a clear chain of responsibility among Smith's carers.

Other inquiry reports published in 1997:

□ Evan Barry killed his estranged wife Susan in April 1996. Bromley Health Authority published report in April 1997.

□ Peter Winslow killed his father in July 1996. Nottingham Health Authority report published June 1997.

□ Paul Smith killed his mother's boyfriend John McCluskey in November 1995. North West Anglia Health Authority report published July 1997.

Reports pending:

□ Alan Murray killed unknown victim in February 1994. Anglia and Oxford NHS

region inquiry opened May 1996.

□ Richard Linford killed Christopher Edwards in November 1994 in Chelmsford prison. Inquiry still sitting.

□ Peter Horrood killed his wife Brenda in May 1995. Anglia and Harbours NHS have ordered an inquiry.

□ Norman Dunn killed his mother Eileen McLachlan in July 1995. Inquiry ordered by Newcastle Health Authority.

Compiled with assistance from the Zito Trust and Sane.

Junk mail rings a bell

FOR three days David Petty was haunted by a mysterious ringing. The sound of a telephone interrupted his work, ruined attempts to watch television, disrupted meals, intruded into his sleep and upset his pet rabbit (Lin Jenkins writes).

In search of the source, Mr Petty, 70, dismantled his computer, combed his house during the night and contacted BT and a cable telephone company that had installed

new equipment outside. The ringing continued.

Exhausted by lack of sleep, he contacted the cable company again. When he held the telephone receiver aloft the employee at the other end recognised it as a ringing mailbox sent out to advertise the firm's telephone service.

The mailbox contained a microchip which emitted the sound of a telephone when the card was opened. Peace returned when Mr Petty tracked it down among a pile of correspondence under his computer keyboard.

"It was an enormous relief. But I was annoyed to discover that it was all down to a piece of junk mail, which I did not want anyway," Mr Petty, of Ipswich, said. "The shrill noise went on 24 hours a day."

Marjorie McFarlane, of East Coast Cable, said the microchip which emitted the sound of a telephone when the card was opened. Peace returned when Mr Petty tracked it down among a pile of

A BOY of 4 who is critically ill with *E. coli* caught it from a goat at a farm park where children pet the animals. The farm is a popular venue for school trips. The goat has been destroyed after being found responsible for the infection. Two other children suffered a mild form after visiting the farm at Hertsmerse, near Harrow, north London. The owners are keeping the site closed to the public until tests prove that it has been disinfected.

It is normally visited by about 112,000 children a year. The boy is in Great

Ormond Street Hospital for Children, where his condition is described as critical but stable.

After he fell ill, DNA tests on the farm's goats, lambs and calves found that one goat was carrying the bacteria. The farm does not produce food, and it is likely that the three who became ill either touched the infected goat or another animal which had droppings on its coat.

A spokesman from the Health and Safety Executive said: "*E. coli* is incredibly easy to catch and it is necessary to scrub your hands for at least four minutes after touching an infected animal. Teachers and parents taking children to this

sort of place need to be very aware of the dangers. If they plan to have a picnic on the farm they must ensure that nobody eats until they have scrubbed their hands."

A joint statement by West Hertfordshire, Barnet, Brent and Harrow Health Authorities, Hertsmerse Borough Council and the Health and Safety Executive said there was no suggestion that the farm did not have adequate precautions, but further expert opinion was being sought.

The infection is different from the one behind the recent fatal outbreak in Scotland, which was caused by eating meat containing the bacteria.

Boy caught *E. coli* from farm goat

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

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ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	8.4%	£592.05	£49.88	£187,299
DIRECT LINE	7.2%	£542.17	-	£169,776

APRs based on Standard Variable Rate Repayment mortgages, correct as 8th July 1997. Source: Moneyfacts.

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Dead girl's
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Andrews denies inventing story of road-rage killing

Joanna Bale hears accusations of deceit and temper

TRACIE ANDREWS, who repeatedly denied yesterday that she stabbed her fiancé to death with a penknife after a blazing row, was described in court as a woman of deceit with a vicious temper.

On her second day in the witness box, Miss Andrews remained composed under close questioning by David Crigman, QC, about the roadside murder of Lee Harvey.

She denied accusations that she had made up a story that Mr Harvey had been killed during a road rage incident, and that she had based it on a row she had in the past.

In front of a packed public gallery at Birmingham Crown Court, Mr Crigman said: "You and Lee had a row. You both stormed out of the car to the back of the car and you had an almighty set-to. In the course of it you got a penknife and you stabbed him time and time again."

Miss Andrews, 28, replied: "No, I did not."

Mr Crigman said that it had been estimated that she and Mr Harvey had been at the murder scene, a country lane near their home in Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, for 17 minutes. The first person on the scene had been a man who came out of a nearby cottage to get into his car.

Mr Crigman said: "For any of that 17 minutes, did you make the slightest attempt to alert the occupants of that house?" Miss Andrews replied: "It wasn't until the light came on [outside the house] that I was able to shout for help... Lee was lying on the ground. I did not want to leave him."

Mr Crigman: "If you did not want to leave him, why didn't you put your hand on the horn?" Miss Andrews: "I don't know."

Mr Crigman asked Miss Andrews to account for Mr Harvey's blood on the road at the back of the car.

the back of the car, several feet from where he was found dead. Miss Andrews: "I didn't see Lee get stabbed. I didn't know anything about him going to the back of the car."

Mr Crigman: "You did see him at the back of the car because that's where you were stabbing him." Miss Andrews: "I did not see Lee at the back of the car. I was not stabbing him."

Mr Crigman: "How did he get the wounds in his back? You have only ever spoken of the man attacking him to his

realisation at how vicious your temper had become, weren't you?" Miss Andrews: "I have not got a vicious temper."

He asked her about a series of violent rows that she and Mr Harvey had had in the months before his death. She admitted that she had bitten Mr Harvey's neck during a row in a nightclub in which he held one of her wrists and refused to let go.

Mr Crigman: "When your teeth were in his neck, how did you feel about him?" Miss Andrews: "I was angry with him." Mr Crigman: "It must require a real intensity of feeling to put your teeth into someone's neck. It's no mild emotion, is it?" Miss Andrews: "People do things. Lee has done things to me."

Mr Crigman: "It was exactly the same intensity, but magnified by everything that followed, that led you to put a knife in his neck, isn't it?" Miss Andrews: "No."

Mr Crigman accused Miss Andrews of basing her "fictional" story about the road rage incident on real experiences. He said: "You invent people and then you introduce bits and pieces of your life experience." He described an incident in which she had argued with another driver after colliding with the back of his parked car. "This is what you used as your little fiction base." Miss Andrews: "There is nothing of any similarity whatsoever."

She said that the male friend who was in her car on that occasion had got out to argue. She denied that she had driven off with the other driver clinging to the bonnet. She admitted that Mr Harvey had once owned a black F-registered Ford Orion and said it was "just circumstantial" that the man she had alleged killed him last December was in a black F-registered Ford Sierra.

The trial continues.

Tracie Andrews arriving at the court yesterday

face." Miss Andrews: "That's all I saw."

Earlier, Mr Crigman accused Miss Andrews of changing her story about the route that she and Mr Harvey had taken on their way home from the pub that they had visited on the night he was killed. He said to her: "You are a woman of considerable deceit aren't you, Miss Andrews?" She replied: "No, I'm not."

She said that she found it hard to show the police the route she and Mr Harvey had taken because it brought back bad memories. Mr Crigman: "You were shocked at the



Policemen on duty outside Downing Street acted to avert any threat from Humphrey the car yesterday after a duck and her brood from St James's Park took a wrong turn and ended up outside No 10, where Humphrey lives



Unruly brood ducks out of No 10

By MICHAEL HORNELL

A DUCK and her 17 ducklings severely tested Downing Street security yesterday after losing their way.

The duck had taken a wrong turning in St James's Park, missing the path to Duck Island at the eastern end of the lake, before bringing traffic to a halt by crossing Horse Guards Road with her brood in single file.

Oblivious to the threat from Humphrey, the No 10 cat, who has been allowed to have a taste for ducks, mother and family then waddled up the driveway at the back of the Foreign Office, and ended up climbing the stone steps at the rear of the most famous street in the capital, some 200 yards from home.

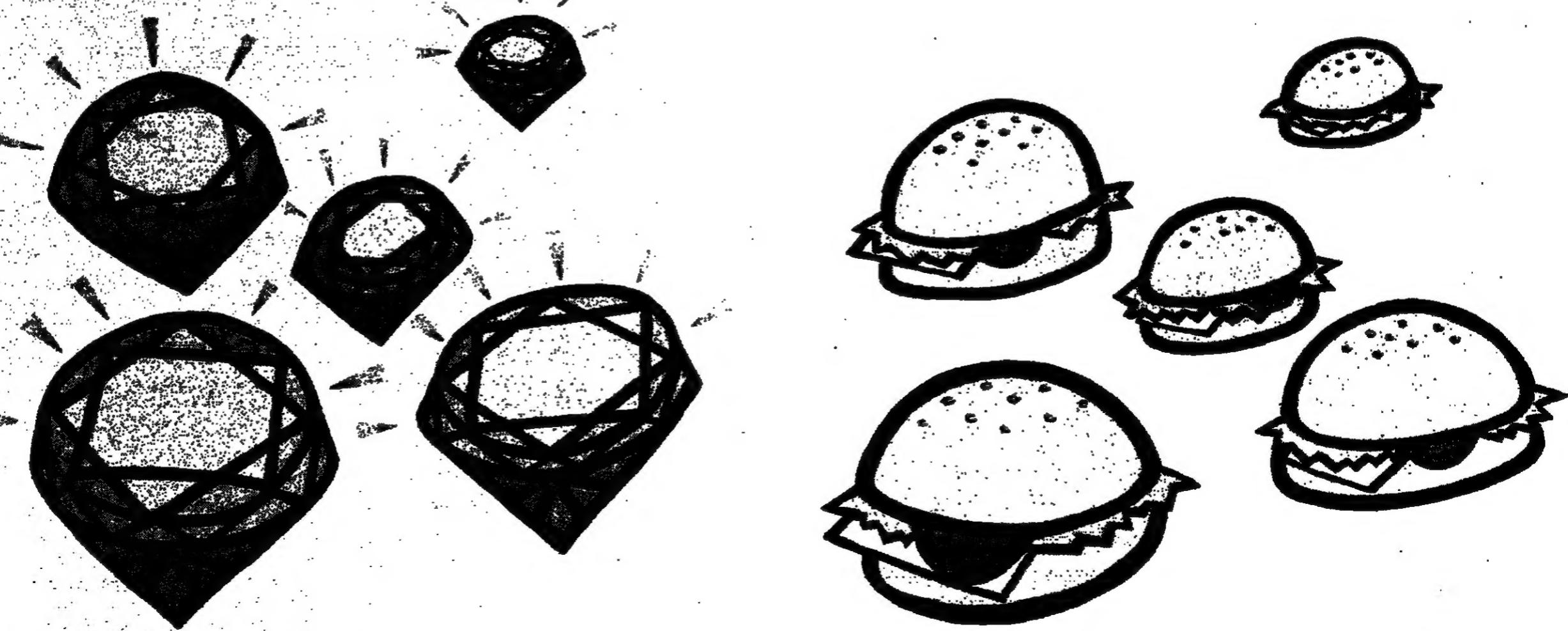
Fearing that mother and ducklings would perish under the wheels of the traffic, if not Humphrey's jaws, if they carried on into Whitehall, officers from the Diplomatic Protection Group on duty outside No 10 took immediate action.

For ten minutes they ran around outside the famous black door, trying to catch the anxious family one by one in their helmets.

One officer said: "It wasn't very dignified but all in the line of duty. The first thing we all said to each other was 'Oh no, where's Humphrey?' Fortunately he was nowhere to be seen."

The ducks were handed over to a park warden who took them back to the park in a cardboard box.

A spokesman for the Royal Parks said: "Humphrey often comes uninvited into St James's Park. We certainly do not encourage him. Our ducks have to be protected. 'We have our own cat, Scrounger, who normally manages to keep him at a certain distance. That's how we like him.'



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Just in time

Student in sex case had made earlier claim

Woman accusing professor of harassment had rejected lie detector test in other complaint. Kathryn Knight reports

A STUDENT who accused a philosophy professor of indecently assaulting her after a garden party had made a similar allegation against a man in America three years earlier, a court was told yesterday.

Miss Y, who together with her friend, Miss X, alleges that John Cottingham kissed and fondled them in his teaching room at Reading University, had complained to police of being sexually assaulted while on holiday in 1993. Reading Crown Court was told that the case was dropped after the student, now 24, refused to participate in a lie-detector test. Under questioning from Sandra Stanfield, for the defence, Miss Y admitted she had made a complaint against a man she had met in a night club. Asked why she had refused to undergo a taped interview monitored by lie-detecting equipment she said: "I speak the truth first and foremost and at that time I was alone in the US and I was really frightened. My parents were telling me to come home."

Miss Stanfield suggested to Miss Y that she was lying, as her brother was with her at the time. "We are not particularly close," Miss Y replied. She denied she had made a complaint of indecent assault in England a few years earlier.

The jury has been told that Professor Cottingham, 53, a leading authority on Descartes, invited the two women, then aged 23 and 21, to his room after meeting them at a garden party last year. He had kissed and fondled them after making references to owning a cane. He was alleged to have unzipped their dresses and touched their breasts, removing Miss Y's bra and tights.

Asked why at no point had she asked him to stop, Miss Y said both she and Miss X were shocked and frightened, and thought they were locked in his room. "We were petrified.

He had been talking about canes and whips and chains. We were worried about getting out of the room alive. He had been talking about de Sade, and the only thing I knew about him was he was a pervert who killed people."

Miss Stanfield said that in Miss Y's statement to the police, given an hour after the alleged incident, there was no mention of her fear that the door was locked, or of Professor Cottingham saying he had a cane.

Miss Y said she had been shocked and confused at the time and had been unable to shake her head and said that was not true.

Earlier, under examination by Simon Drayton, for the prosecution, Miss Y compared the incident to being in a car crash. "It felt as if it was in a car accident and everything was in slow motion. I didn't even feel I was there, it was as if it was happening to someone else. I was very shocked... It was like my grandad or something."

Asked if she had welcomed Professor Cottingham's attentions, she replied: "Not at all. He was a lecturer and I had no reason not to respect any of my lecturers. I had no idea he was that way inclined."

The court also heard from a porter at the university who said he had heard the two young women running along a corridor from Professor Cottingham's room and then found them in a distressed state while on his night patrol. Andrew Campbell said the two women had approached him, saying they needed to retrieve some items from the professor's room.

"One was in a state, crying a bit shaky. The other was also in a state but in a bit more control. At one point when I was talking to them they were clinging to one another, trying to comfort one another."

He said he had gone to the professor's office to retrieve some of the women's missing items and had picked up a bra, a pair of white and black shoes. The professor had appeared "surprised and embarrassed". There was a bottle of whisky on the table and "there appeared to have been some kind of social occasion".

Shortly after escorting the women to the security office, a ruffed Professor Cottingham had approached him near the lodges. He had said: "Was there a problem? They were fine when they left."

Professor Cottingham denies two counts of indecent assault. The case continues.

Cottingham: a leading authority on Descartes

remember every detail. She had found that some missing links had since come back to her.

"Is that why in your statement you said you had no idea how your bra came to be off or your tights removed?" Miss Stanfield asked. Miss Y replied: "Yes."

Miss Stanfield suggested that the friends had performed a "vamping act" like a "teasing striptease" to titillate the professor. She put it to Miss Y that she had kissed Miss X, saying they were interested in sex, of all kinds, and had had hundreds of men. Miss Y

denies two counts of indecent assault. The case continues.



Susan Constable yesterday: found her own man

Dating agency 'kept finding Mr Wrong for lonely widow'

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE widow had a clear idea of the type of man she wanted to meet for a new relationship: a non-smoker, ideally living locally, and able to take her and her children out for drives in his car. In her search for Mr Right, it seemed a good idea to join a dating agency which promised to "take great care to study your individual requirements".

Instead, Susan Constable, 39, was offered a series of Mr Wrongs, a court was told yesterday. They included six heavy smokers, a man who could not drive because of his bad eyesight, and finally a man who lived almost 200 miles away and was scared of driving.

When she complained, she says that the agency Initial Approach cancelled her membership and refused to give her a refund.

Mrs Constable, from Greenloaning, Perthshire and Kinross, is now bringing a small claims action for her £376 fee.

Her husband Peter, a surveyor, died three years ago from a brain tumour, leaving her with two children.

Mrs Constable told Stirling Sheriff Court that the divorcee who ran the agency, Sandra Menoni, 47, had been charming when she joined.

"I filled in the form and said I wanted a non-smoker or an occasional smoker who lived near by or was prepared to drive to see me." She was sent about 14 profiles of potential companions, met five or six, and had a short relationship with one. "None of them was the kind of man I was looking for, and I don't think I was what they wanted either. I was offered six who were heavy smokers, another who lived in the north of Scotland and said he was too frightened to drive, and

another had such bad eyesight that he couldn't see to drive. They were sending me details of men I had nothing in common with."

A proportion of the membership fee was for social gatherings at which clients could meet. Mrs Constable said that she was unable to attend a Burns Supper because the weather was too bad and police were advising people to stay at home but Mrs Menoni refused to refund the cost.

Mrs Constable, who represented herself in court, said: "I started in January last year and by August I had had enough. I asked them for a proportion of my money back, but they sent me a letter cancelling membership."

She alleges that the terms of the contract were unfair because the company could cancel membership of anyone it deemed unsuitable without offering a refund. Sheriff Robert Younger heard that Initial Approach is being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading after a complaint. In its leaflet, the company says: "Initial Approach will take great care to study your individual requirements, considering the information you gave us in your personal profile."

Tom Murray, for the company, said it had fulfilled its obligation to provide four introductions over a year.

The agency had made it clear that some were smokers. The case was adjourned until August 12. Outside court, Mrs Constable said: "I hope if I win, it will encourage everybody else who is unhappy with the service dating agencies provide to fight back." She now has a relationship with a man she met independently.

Women shoppers attacked by Rolex robbers

BY STEWART TENDERLE CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THREE businesswomen on a trip to London were attacked by a gang of "Rolex raiders" as they returned to their holiday flat from shopping in Harrods, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

One of the women was dragged along the ground as the robbers ripped a Rolex off her wrist. Another of the women was also attacked for her watch. The other woman escaped attack.

The gang fled with a Rolex watch worth £7,000, a second Rolex worth £2,000 and a handbag with £500 in cash.

Their victims were treated for bruises, cuts and shock.

Scotland Yard has already warned shoppers in central London about the dangers of wearing expensive jewellery and watches in public places. Since last September there have been 250 attacks in central London, often involving gangs stalking victims. A team of 40 officers is working on the attacks.

In the latest robbery, two of the women are middle-aged and the third is in her twenties. The women, who were all Asians, came to London on holiday and business and stayed at the flat of friends in St John's Wood. The attack happened after the three women had spent Sunday afternoon shopping in Knightsbridge. They spent several hours at the Harrods sale and then travelled to Queensway for supper.

Police believe the women were probably targeted on the Underground at Queensway. The gang of five or six youths followed them on the Tube as they headed north. When the women got out at St John's Wood station, they came after them. As the women turned into the car park of the flats, the gang pounced. As they ran off, they discarded outer clothes to disguise themselves.

Four men were later arrested at South Hampstead railway station after police were alerted by a passing driver. Yesterday detectives said four men had been released on police bail, and appealed for witnesses.

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MAGAZINE

Britain promises action on beef at home and abroad

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG

BRITAIN promised the European Union yesterday that it would crack down on beef exports in breach of the worldwide ban, but also gave warning that it would block imports from the Continent that failed to meet British standards.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, made the points to the European Parliament's BSE committee at a conciliatory session that broke with the hostility that coloured the previous Government's contacts with the body. Douglas Hogg, the previous minister, refused to come to answer the committee's questions.

"We are totally committed to the principles of openness and transparency," Dr Cunningham told the committee, which applauded his remarks. Lavishing compliments on key members, he also invited the committee to visit Britain.

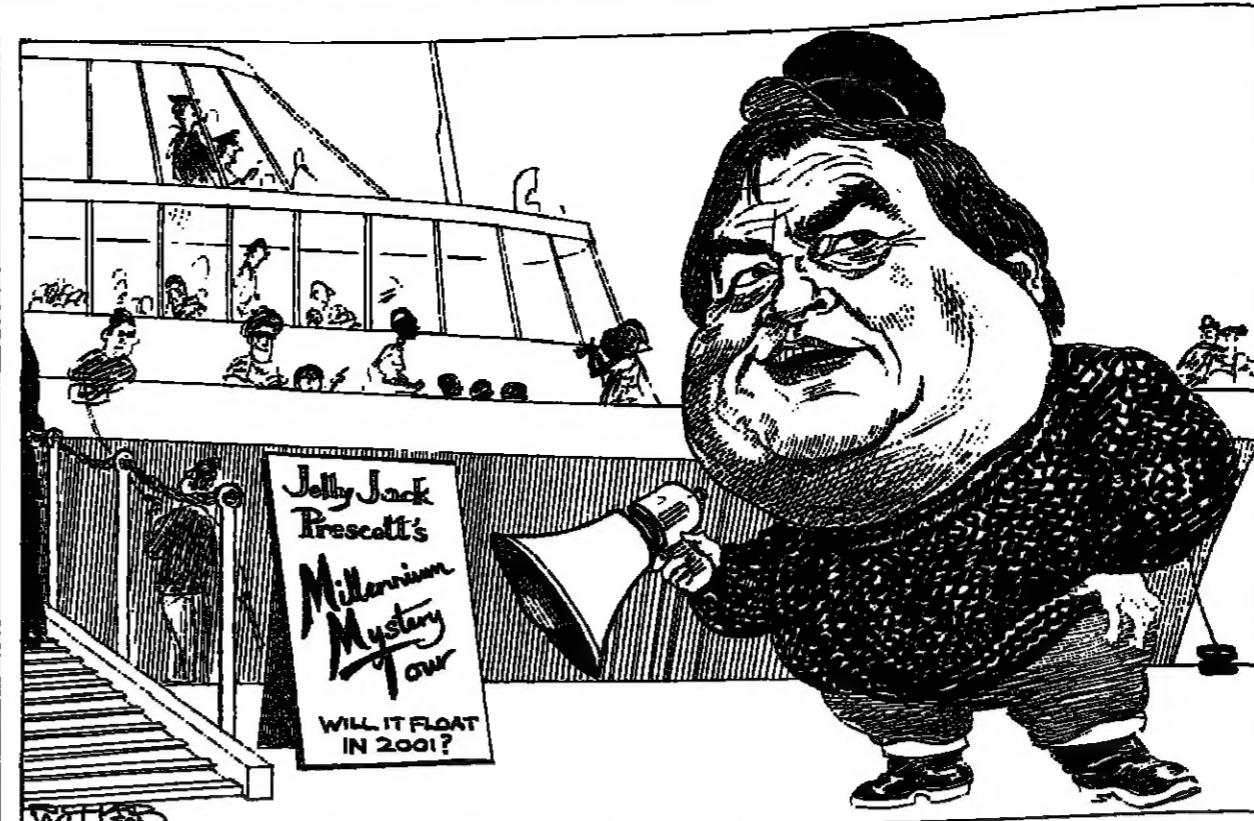
Tackling the fraudulent sales of British beef, Dr Cunningham said: "I am deter-

mined to crack down hard on anyone who runs risks with human safety." The Prime Minister had agreed to give new powers to British enforcement authorities to put an end to illegal traffic, he said. "We are looking at very sophisticated, criminal fraud that has gone beyond the EU itself."

The Government announced on Monday that it was closing two meat processing plants, of beef had gone to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Poland, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt and Russia.

Dr Cunningham confirmed that the new Government would not withdraw an action against the EU's worldwide ban at the European Court of Justice. "It's going to be an important test of the legality of the ban."

At the same time, Britain expected the rest of the EU to live up to the standards that it had set for it. Spain, Germany and other EU states are resisting a move by the Commission to enforce the same slaughterhouse measures on the removal of suspect material on the Continent as applied in Britain. Dr Cunningham denied earlier reports that he planned an outright ban on imports but said he would "ensure that imports have been given the same rigorous treatment on the removal of specified materials as beef in the UK".



Prescott launches river bus scheme

By JILL SHERMAN

JOHN PRESCOTT is championing a proposal for ten new piers and seven new boats on the Thames to secure a lasting river bus system as a legacy of the

Millennium Experience. The Deputy Prime Minister, who is determined to revitalise the Thames, is keen to ensure that the new service fares better than its predecessors, which failed through lack of cash. The piers are expected to be

funded partly through money from the Millennium Experience, but Mr Prescott is also hoping for local authority money and private sector sponsorship.

Some of the piers are to be built close to London's finest restaurants, such as the Savoy and the Oxo Tower on the South Bank, and Mr Prescott is expected to call at their door for sponsorship money. The service will be primarily targeted at tourists and the Deputy Prime Minister is proposing to use through-ticketing to link the river to other forms of public transport.

The river bus will start at Battersea Power Station and go to Greenwich village and possibly on to City Airport. Two piers are already planned for The Globe theatre and the Millennium Experience site at Greenwich. But Mr Prescott has proposed eight other piers, to add to the existing 14. The new piers are proposed at the Tate Gallery, Hungerford Bridge, Blackfriars, the Savoy, the London Bridge-New Fish Wharf, Battersea, the Millennium Wheel and the Oxo Tower.

Mr Prescott has had talks over the past ten days with the Cross River Partnership, London First and the Port of London Authority.

Water companies warned on leaks

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WATER companies were warned yesterday that plugging leaks will have to come before making a profit under the national water strategy being prepared.

Ministers told the companies, some of which lose more than 30 per cent of their supplies through leaks, that the maximum such wastage allowed under new legally binding rules will be set at 10 or 15 per cent.

In a report published yesterday, the Office of Water Services' national customer council accused firms of putting shareholders before customers. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said that the "scandal" of water losses and high profits had to end. He announced that water companies in England and Wales had agreed to the Government's ten-point plan, which includes offering a free leak detection and repair service for customers' pipes. Of

the estimated third of water lost through leaks, about a quarter is from pipes that link company mains to houses.

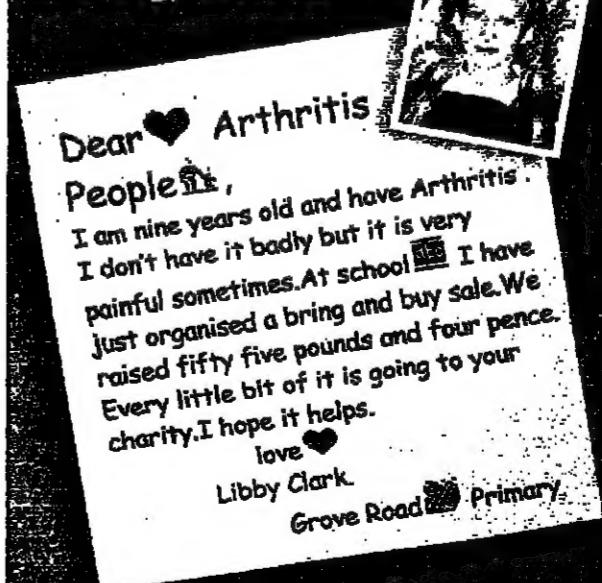
He praised the companies for their greater efforts towards water efficiency in homes. But he said that if they chose to "waffle" rather than meet the 10-point plan the Government would use its "firepower". He said: "I shall be looking for sustained commitment."

Ian Byatt, director general of the Office of Water Services, has been asked to set mandatory leak targets that will require the companies to reduce wastage each year.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: from 9.30am, backbench debates. From 2.30pm, backbench questions. From 3.30pm, Questions to Ministers. From 4.30pm, Finance Bill committee; backbench debate on drug and alcohol abuse in prisons. In the Lords: debates on schools' role in preparing young people for adult life, including parenthood; proposed probation service cuts.

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So it is

Haughey's accountant blamed over £1.3m gift

The former Irish Prime Minister says he knew nothing about his personal finances during his time in office. **Audrey Magee reports**

THE former Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey blamed his accountant yesterday for organising illegal payments of £1.3 million from a supermarket tycoon to support his lavish lifestyle while in office.

At a hearing of a tribunal investigation into payments to politicians, Mr Haughey tried to absolve himself of any responsibility for the money. He said that he had entrusted all his personal finances to his accountant and friend Des Traynor, who died of cancer three years ago.

Mr Haughey, an accountant by training and a former Finance Minister, said that he never questioned Mr Traynor about the source of the money that helped to maintain his Dublin mansion, racehorses, yacht and privately owned island off the coast of Co Kerry. Describing himself as a "quiescent" accountant, Mr Haughey said: "My private finances were peripheral to my life. I had Mr Traynor look after all that. My work was my lifestyle. When I was in office, I worked every day, all day. There was no room for an extravagant lifestyle."

Mr Haughey said that it was not until 1993, one year after being forced from office, that he became aware that he had received £1.3 million from Ben Dunne, the former chairman of

the Dunnes Stores supermarket group. Mr Haughey said that no political favours were granted in return for the money. Mr Dunne said that he gave the money to help to clear Mr Haughey's debts because he "felt sorry for him".

The payments were made through an elaborate network of overseas bank accounts between 1987 and 1991 while Mr Haughey was Taoiseach. The final payment was made in November 1991 when Mr Dunne called to Mr Haughey's home on the outskirts of Dublin. Mr Dunne handed Mr Haughey three bank drafts totalling £210,000 and made out to fictitious names. Yesterday Mr Haughey agreed that the payments were made but said he did not remember receiving the money from Mr Dunne.

The appearance at the tribunal in Dublin Castle is a source of severe embarrassment to Mr Haughey, who for two decades refused to answer questions about the funding of his wealthy lifestyle. Hundreds of people turned up to hear him give evidence. Many queued overnight.

Mr Haughey avoided media attention by arriving shortly after 7am, three hours before the hearing started. His Fianna Fail supporters applauded as he left the tribunal but

were quickly drowned out by crowds boozing, hussing and shouting abuse.

Mr Haughey, 71, apologised for lying to the tribunal and said that his tax affairs were in order. He made an opening statement admitting everything but was nonetheless shamed when Denis McCullough, counsel for the State, displayed his letters of lies and denials. Only last week, after months of work by the tribunal, did Mr Haughey admit that he had received the money.

Mr Haughey is now likely to face a tax bill of at least £750,000. He could also be jailed, although that is unlikely. Political opposition parties are demanding a new inquiry into his wealth to establish whether anyone else made payments to him while he was Taoiseach.

Allegations of corruption were made against Mr Haughey throughout his political life. In 1970, he was accused of conspiring to import arms for the IRA and in 1991 it was alleged, and denied, that he was a member of a "Golden Circle" getting rich on State assets.

Mr Justice Brian McCracken, chairman of the tribunal, is expected to file his report to the Government next month and the Dail will be recalled from the summer recess to discuss his findings.



Charles Haughey after giving evidence to the tribunal yesterday. As he left Dublin Castle he was booed by angry crowds

Court convictions are rising, says prosecution chief

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Director of Public Prosecutions has responded to claims that fewer criminals are being convicted with new figures showing a substantial increase.

The proportion of convictions after contested hearings rose from 55 per cent in 1991-92 to 60 per cent in 1996-97, Dame Barbara Mills, QC, said.

She was careful not to point the finger directly or to say that the Crown Prosecution Service was being wrongly blamed. But she added: "We can only prosecute such cases as we get from the police."

She said that the mix of cases had slightly changed, and that this year the CPS had received fewer less serious cases while the number of more serious cases had risen by 3 per cent.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Sir John Morris, the Attorney General, have set up a review into the policies and procedures of the CPS because of concern over a fall in convictions. But CPS officials yesterday indicated that the blame for that lay at the door of police, who were bringing far fewer cases.

Brian Spear, a senior CPS

official, said: "We are dependent on the police for the cases they bring to us — we can't bring cases out of a hat. So if the number of cases they pass to us is falling, clearly we can take fewer cases forward."

The police "clear-up" rate had dropped from 55 per cent of all recorded offences ten years ago to 26 per cent of all recorded offences, he said.

The CPS annual report, published yesterday, showed that 13 million cases were handled in the magistrates' court, where a conviction rate was achieved of 75 per cent in contested cases. In the Crown Court, 114,540 cases were dealt with, with a 60 per cent conviction rate.

The CPS announced the findings of two pilot studies to fast-track cases through the courts. In Plymouth, after more than one year and an average of 24 child abuse cases, the time between charge and trial has been halved to some 31 days.

In the second, dealing with minor traffic cases in Gloucestershire and Lancashire, the time from date of offence to concluding the court case has been halved.

Plenty of work awaits horde of new MPs

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

IT IS time for all those new MPs to do some work in Parliament apart from just voting. The select committees are belatedly being set up this week and more than 100 of the new MPs will serve on them, roughly 40 per cent of their total membership. There is plenty for them to do.

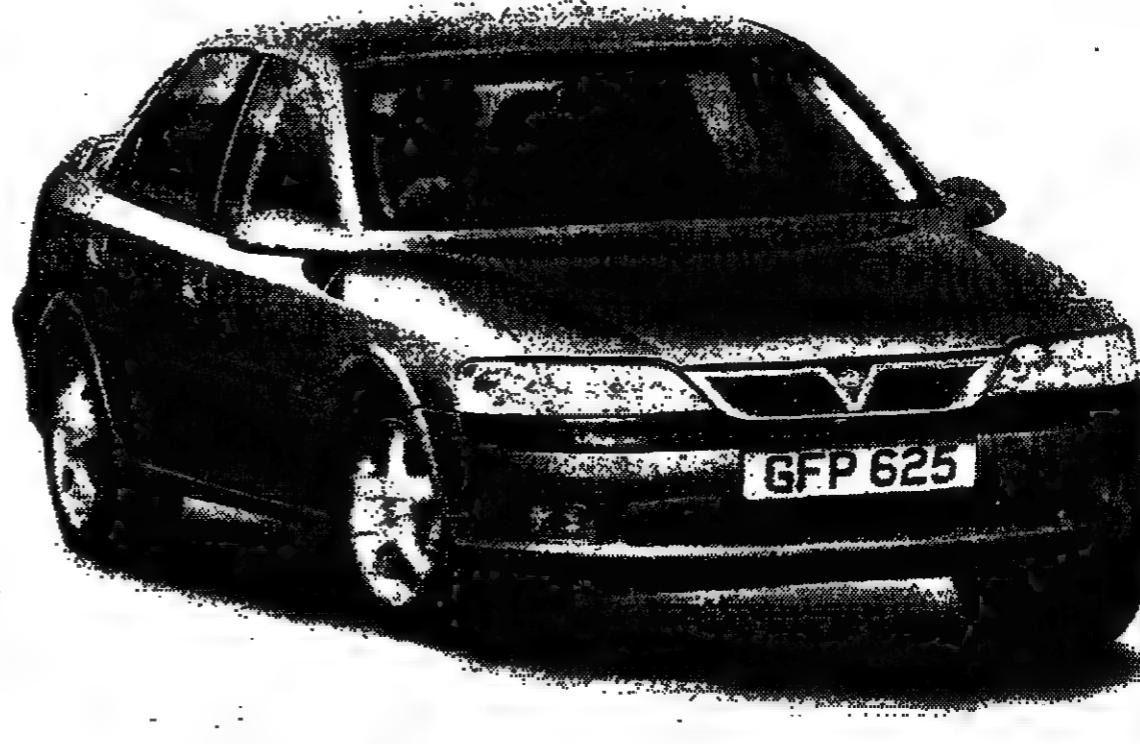
The committees have in the past made a virtue of their diversity, spending a long time on in-depth policy inquiries at the expense sometimes of scrutinising administration and expenditure. Some committees, like Defence and Social Security, have been assiduous at the latter, but the coverage has been patchy.

However, a Government with a huge majority and a distant attitude towards Parliament should constantly be held to account by the Commons. The new committees might make a start with the multitude of reviews that ministers have announced. While protecting the confidentiality of civil service advice, the committees should ask for papers on the options being considered. This applies particularly to the most important of them all, the comprehensive spending review. Individual departments are due to produce papers on their own activities by the autumn as part of the Treasury-run exercise.

There is obviously a particular role for the Treasury committee, which is likely to be chaired by the experienced Giles Radice. It has a long possible agenda — the new arrangements for monetary policy and the Bank of England, the proposals for overhauling City regulation, monitoring how the money from the windfall levy on the utilities is spent, and revamping the Private Finance Initiative, let alone the single currency. But the committee should make a priority of the comprehensive spending review, seeking regular reports over the next year from Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary, about the long-term cost of existing programmes and the options for savings. This will be a real test of the Government's much repeated

PETER RIDDELL

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Foreigners quit Mongolia after murder of Briton

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN ULAN BATOR

LAST MONTH'S murder of a popular British aid expert in Mongolia has prompted some foreign residents to pack up and go home, while those left behind are plagued by nervousness and confusion.

Tim Jarman's death, aged 50, has dented the reputation of Ulan Bator as a relatively safe haven whose people are generally friendly to Westerners. Many people are avoid-

ing the Top Ten disco where Jarman, an agricultural consultant with the Asian Development Bank, spent some time on his last night alive.

But one consultant said: "There is no panic, and only a few people have left, but others will continue to feel uneasy until arrests are made and they know what caused this tragedy."

Mongolian police say that Jarman, who came from Bath, where his wife and two daughters live, was shot in his flat at about 3.30am on June 21. They say the cause of death was a

small-calibre bullet that had entered his left temple. Reliable sources say the weapon was a sawn-off hunting rifle, but no trace of it has been found, ruling out suicide.

While some sources indicate that a video recorder was taken from Jarman's flat, where he lived alone, sums of money, credit cards and other valuables were untouched.

Rumours abound that the murder may have involved a Mafia-style killing connected with \$17 million (£10.1 million) that the Asian bank

had disbursed here. Some speculate that Jarman might have detected official corruption in connection with these funds.

Other theories are that he may have been involved with a woman, foreign or Mongolian. But, although he had female friends and had escorted two of them to their flats before he died, he was not conducting any obvious relationship. "By the standards of most consultants, Tim Jarman was verging on sainthood," said one acquaintance. "He was not known to be involved with anyone. He was a perfect gentleman."

A coroner's inquest into Jarman's death was adjourned in Bath on July 10, to allow for the funeral on July 25. Sally Jarman, his wife, said she was pressing the Foreign Office for a copy of the Mongolian police report. "I am as much in the dark as anyone else, but I have no reason not to trust the Mongolians. They have not been particularly informative, or helpful, but they have been very thorough," she said.

Tim Jarman, shot in the head in his flat last month

British-based firms gave most in US election

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

BRITISH-based companies, including BP, Glaxo Wellcome and NatWest, gave more money to the last American elections than companies from any other country. It has emerged as the row builds over foreign influence in the most expensive presidential race in US history.

American subsidiaries of British companies gave \$4.3 million, more than a third of the \$12.5 million injected by companies whose headquarters are outside the United States, according to the first detailed analysis of foreign donations. Three-quarters of the British money went to Republicans — who control Congress and are traditionally the party of big business — and \$1 million to Democrats.

Using US subsidiaries to circumvent the ban on foreign donations to election campaigns is legal, but has become controversial as both parties have traded accusations of foreign influence.

The Democratic National Committee announced in February that it would no longer accept campaign contributions from US subsidiaries of foreign companies.

In February, President Clinton attacked the Republicans for not joining in the pledge.

"They raise more foreign money. And we take all the heat," he said.

The Republican National Committee has said that donations from US subsidiaries are "perfectly legal" and has questioned whether the Democrats will follow through on Mr Clinton's pledge.

Brown & Williamson Tobacco, owned by BAT Industries, was the largest British-controlled donor, giving \$1,003,998 to Republicans and \$85,000 to Democrats, according to the study by the Centre for Responsive Politics, a bipartisan Washington research group.

The study, derived from Federal Election Commission data, identifies 128 US subsidiaries of 93 foreign-owned companies which gave money in the November 1996 elections. The top donors were US subsidiaries of Seagram, the Canadian conglomerate (\$2,189,720); BAT, and the Australian News Corporation (\$929,889).

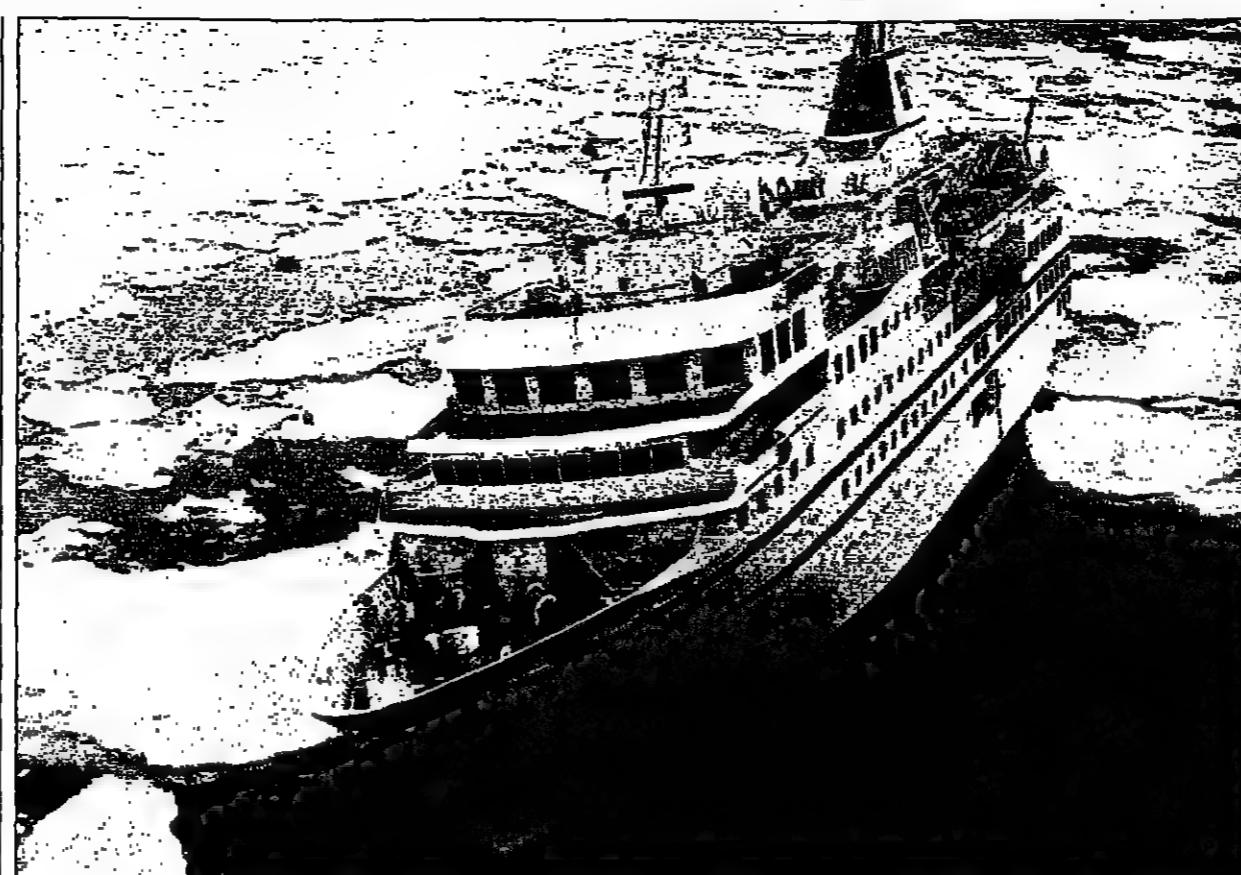
The list of donors is dominated by pharmaceutical companies such as Glaxo Wellcome (\$921,454); Zeneca (\$325,247); SmithKline Beecham (\$264,950), and media and tobacco companies. Legislation affecting all these industries

has figured prominently in Congress. Other British-controlled companies which donated cash include Holiday Inns (owned by Bass) which gave \$56,500; Blue Circle (\$33,000); British Petroleum (\$355,929); Cable & Wireless (\$75,000); Guinness (\$50,000); Grand Metropolitan (\$211,782); ICI (\$176,450); NatWest (\$130,000), and the Rank Organisation (\$80,000).

The report also shows that two Swiss companies — C S Holdings and Roche — ranked fifth and sixth, contributing \$507,100 and \$370,093. The Japanese Sony Corporation was the tenth largest, splitting its \$300,000 almost equally between Republicans and Democrats.

The row about campaign finance, which has engulfed the White House since the last election, and to a lesser extent the Republicans, has centred on whether foreign governments or companies tried to influence the poll's outcome.

Direct donations by foreign governments, companies or individuals are illegal. But donations from US subsidiaries are allowed, provided that the US company makes the decision independently and supplies the money itself.



The German cruise liner *Hanseatic* listing after running aground off Norway's Svalbard archipelago

Luxury cruise captain aground again

BY DEBORAH COLLCUTT

THE Norwegian coastguard last night had to abandon an operation to free a luxury German cruise liner stuck in thick ice after the captain ran her aground for the second time in a year.

Captain Hartwig von Hardling stranded the 9,000-tonne

Hanseatic in a fjord of the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard with 260 people, including 145 mainly German tourists. Ten

months ago the captain hit a sandbank in icy seas off the northwest Canadian coast, ending a cruise through the Arctic. This time his ship is wedged in an area where another vessel was stuck last August for a week.

None of the passengers was hurt as the *Hanseatic* ran onto the rocks late on Sunday and there was little damage to the hull of the liner, which has 88 luxury suites.

Elisabeth Aarsaether,

spokeswoman for the Governor's office on Svalbard which is co-ordinating the rescue, said the liner was completely blocked in ice.

Kaare Oyre, controller at the rescue centre for northern Norway at Bodøs, had planned to unload part of the ship's 480-tonne cargo of heavy fuel before attempting to drag her free, but three vessels involved in the operation had to pull out to avoid becoming trapped themselves.

He added that weather conditions favoured another rescue attempt today.

The Bahamian-registered vessel, owned by Hapag Lloyd, a Hamburg-based shipping firm, was on its way from Norway to Iceland via the scenic islands.

Captain von Hardling reportedly told the coastguard that passengers and crew were in good spirits and a sightseeing tour of the surrounding islands had been arranged.

Milosevic elected Yugoslav President

FROM TOM WALKER
IN SARAJEVO

SLOBODAN Milosevic was yesterday elected President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, comprising Serbia and Montenegro, securing for him another four years in power.

Mr Milosevic's intention to switch from the Serbian to the Yugoslav post had long been known, but the speed with which he accomplished his new status took most observers by surprise.

He was the only candidate and there was little opposition to his election in the federal parliament: in the lower house 88 voted for and 10 against, and in the upper house there were 29 for and 2 against.

The opposition movement Zajedno continued its boycott of the lower house and did not take part.

Mr Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party pushed the vote through, with a split in the Montenegrin Socialists looming.

Mile Djukanovic, the Montenegrin Prime Minister and a moderate, is attempting to distance the party from its subservience to Mr Milosevic, but President Momir Bulatovic managed to keep the Montenegrins unified for Mr Milosevic's last stand.

In theory the federal presidency is a symbolic role, but few doubt Mr Milosevic's ability to transfer his substantial security apparatus to federal level.

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Jill is fit

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

Hitler's favourite secretary dies

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

ONE of the few remaining members of Adolf Hitler's private staff, who faithfully stood by him until shortly before his suicide in a Berlin bunker, has died of cancer at the age of 83.

Gerda Christian, Hitler's private secretary, outlived her Führer by 52 years and refused to criticise him publicly, saying to friends privately that he was a good and fair boss.

Franz Christian served Hitler until the closing days of the Third Reich and joined him in the bunker in Berlin where he killed himself with his new bride, Eva Braun, in 1945.

Born Gerda Dannerowski, she married a senior Wehrmacht officer and was one of Hitler's privileged female members of staff, allowed to stay at his Eagle's Nest hideaway in Berchtesgaden, near the Austrian border. She died in a hospital in Düsseldorf after a long battle against cancer which spread from her lungs to the stomach and bowel.

After a brief unhappy marriage she lived apart from her husband and dedicated her life to serving the "Chief", as Hitler was known in close circles. She refused to give interviews to historians or journalists about Hitler and spoke about him only with close friends or family, when she would praise his kindness.

"What should I say?" she once asked a German journalist who called at her small flat

in Henry-Dunant-Strasse in Düsseldorf. "Whatever I say will be wrongly interpreted." But she later told a friend: "I cannot complain about my time with the Führer. We were even allowed to smoke at a time in Germany when it was not the done thing for women to smoke."

Ironically, a habit which Frau Christian later said saved her from the invading Russian Army eventually caused her long, painful death. After more than 100 days in hiding 55ft below ground in the Berlin bunker, with the Allies advancing towards the capital from all directions, Gerda and Hitler's other secretary, Traudl Junge, eventually tried to escape.

Despite her dishevelled appearance, the attractive young blonde with sparkling blue eyes aroused the suspicion of a Russian soldier patrolling the area near the bunker. She was arrested and questioned for hours because the Russians believed that she was somebody famous or a member of Hitler's entourage.

But when Gerda took a cigarette offered to her by one of the soldiers, dragged hard and inhaled the smoke deep into her lungs, she portrayed a different image. "One of the soldiers said to the other that German high society don't behave like that," she later recalled, adding that they released her believing she was probably a local farmhand.

Gerda befriended Eva Braun and in the early days, when Hitler had little time and interest in his girlfriend, would go on long walks with her or sit chatting on the terraces of Berchtesgaden, taking in the panoramic views



Gerda Christian, left, always praised her Führer as a kind and fair boss and remained with him until the last days in the Berlin bunker

of the Austrian mountains. She rubbed shoulders with the Third Reich elite and their wives on the many occasions Hitler entertained in his Alpine retreat. It is said by Traudl Junge, whose memoirs have been written by two

French journalists, that Gerda was a favourite of Hitler, because her looks typified his ideal of an Aryan woman.

He ordered her to leave the Berlin bunker and flee to the south to escape Allied troops. According to historical ac-

counts, both she and Frau Junge refused to go, and later accepted cyanide pills from the SS leader, Heinrich Himmler. But Hitler was against them committing suicide, and in his final days told the two women they would cope without him. "If only our general had been as brave as you, the Führer told his secretaries. By the time Hitler and Eva Braun died, the women had fled the bunker. Both succeeded in escaping from Berlin.

Eta names councillor as next murder target

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

SECURITY measures were being tightened yesterday around Basque town councillors belonging to the Popular Party of José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, as radical separatists threatened to carry out their second killing in a week.

"You are next," said graffiti warnings in the northern town of Renteria, naming José Luis Caso, a Popular Party councillor in the area. His party said it was taking the threat seriously, adding: "We are reviewing their security."

Senior Caso, 63, said he was not scared. "I don't want to worry about it, because I know it is risky to defend certain ideas in the Basque country. Nothing is going to stop me thinking this way."

The moderate Basque Nationalist Party, which leads the regional government, also gave a warning that Eta was planning to carry out more attacks on politicians. "It knows it has lost the war and only aims to create chaos," Joseba Egibar said.

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were peaceful, the backlash against Eta erupted in sporadic violence overnight in the Basque country, where Blanco was buried on Monday in his home town of Erruz.

In San Sebastián, more than 1,000 anti-Eta protesters hurled eggs and stones at offices and a bar used by Herri Batasuna. People inside retaliated with petrol bombs, police said. At least two youths were injured and one person was arrested.

In Bilbao, Spanish media reported that protesters attacked two Eta sympathisers in an assault on Herri Batasuna's headquarters. Similar clashes erupted in the Basque capital, Vitoria. Gorria Martínez, the Herri Batasuna leader, yesterday called his party was not glad Blanco had been killed. "We, more than anyone else, understand the family's pain," he said.

Marches to protest against Eta's kidnapping and killing of Miguel Ángel Blanco, the Popular Party town councillor, two weeks ago continued in towns and cities across Spain yesterday. Millions had taken to the streets in Madrid and Barcelona on Monday night in the biggest demonstrations since the failed 1981 coup. While most protests

Cook: London is target for money-launderers

Britain and Russia to fight mafia

MOSCOW: Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday promised President Clerides of Cyprus that Britain would do all it could to bolster the United Nations talks to end the island's division and to speed its accession to the European Union.

The Prime Minister welcomed the progress made at last week's face-to-face meeting between Mr Clerides and Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriots, and urged the President to continue moves to reduce tensions on the island.

The Downing Street meeting came as officials expressed optimism over four days of talks in Troutbeck, New York state, the first in three years,

Blair vow on Cyprus peace

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday promised President Clerides of Cyprus that Britain would do all it could to bolster the United Nations talks to end the island's division and to speed its accession to the European Union.

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After talks at the Russian Interior Ministry, Mr Cook said the text of a co-operation agreement had been reached, which he hoped would be signed formally in the autumn when Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, is due to visit Moscow.

The agreement would formalise co-operation between police, intelligence services and customs officials, in particular to target the growing problem of drugs trafficking and money-laundering.

Russia is a main conduit for heroin from Afghanistan. Mr Cook said London was a particular target for Russian mafia money-launderers.

which went better than diplomats expected. The two men agreed to meet occasionally in Nicosia to resolve problems such as forest fires, looking for people missing since the 1974 Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus, and incidents on the green line buffer zone. They will hold a second round of constitutional talks in Switzerland next month.

Diplomats hope that, after the elections for the Greek Cypriot presidency next February, a further round of talks could be held to get agreement on a complete package. This would include the withdrawal of Turkish troops, a federal constitution and reducing the Turkish area from 37

to about 28 per cent of the land. The two sides will be asked to submit proposed constitutions over the summer, which the UN special envoy will turn into a single negotiating draft.

Diplomats said yesterday that the most difficult issue was the proposed return or compensation for refugees, who had set up strong lobbies overseas. "All know that there will not be a wholesale return, and no significant numbers will go back in the short term," one source said.

The latest attempt at a settlement comes amid rising tensions along the green line.

Leading article, page 19

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Saddam joins the Queen on wealth list

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

SADDAM HUSSEIN, the President of Iraq, and Fidel Castro, the Communist Cuban dictator, have been included for the first time this year in the recognised list of the world's richest people.

They join the Queen and the Sultan of Brunei in a special category released as part of the traditional survey of the financial elite by *Forbes Magazine*.

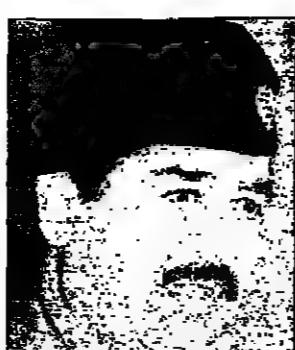
Saddam, the fifth richest among kings, queens and dictators, is estimated to have amassed a \$5 billion (£2.9 billion) fortune from an oil smuggling operation run by his son, Uday.

Senior Castro is thought to

control at least 10 per cent of the ailing Cuban economy with numerous assets and investments in the sugar and nickel industries totalling \$1.4 billion. He is placed tenth ahead of the Queen, whose wealth is projected at \$350 million, excluding the Royal Collection and the Crown Jewels, which are held in trust.

Kerry Dolan, an editor at *Forbes Magazine*, said readers had constantly asked why the Sultan of Brunei, the richest man in the world with \$38 billion, was not included in the list alongside business moguls such as Bill Gates, whose personal earnings from Microsoft have reached \$36.4 billion.

"Traditionally *Forbes* has excluded royalty, heads of



Saddam: oil smuggling



Castro: investments in nickel and sugar



Fahd: \$20 billion wealth

state and other political powers from the list, but we've had so many questions about them we decided to make a change this year," she said.

"We want to stress that the people in this category benefit

from their political position, not their business acumen. That's why we have created a special category."

Saddam's fortune, which makes him the 50th richest man in the world, is believed

by the magazine to be half his total worth before the Gulf War. But he and Senior Castro remain more affluent than British members of the business list, including Richard Branson, head of Virgin on

\$2.1 billion; David Sainsbury, the food magnate with \$1.5 billion; and Sir Anthony Bamford, chairman of JCB construction equipment, a new entry with \$1.3 billion.

The instability in the Mid-

dle East created by Saddam's attacks on the Iraqi Kurds has merely helped to increase his earnings as the United Nations continues to place an embargo on the legitimate flow of oil from Baghdad. The average per capita income for his population has dropped from \$2,300 to \$1,000 in seven years.

For a man who regularly criticises the capitalist West, Senior Castro has made a steady profit from his impoverished country since the 1959 revolution. Apart from industrial assets, he and Raul, his brother, own numerous palaces and hotels in Havana and outside. There has also been widespread speculation about money that the Cuban leader may have made from drug

deals with Colombian cartels. Forbes has spent months speaking to oil industry experts and others to achieve an informed estimate for Saddam. In the case of Senior Castro, however, the magazine has only been able to guess.

Among others included on the special register are Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, whose royal assets net \$4.7 billion; King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, with \$20 billion, and President Suharto, the far from Democratic leader of Indonesia, on \$16 billion.

Leading Hong Kong businessman Lee Shau Kee, chairman of Henderson Land, and Li Ka-shing, the property and retail entrepreneur, head the Asian list.

Israelis split over plans for festivities in 1998

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

ELABORATE plans to celebrate next year's fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of Israel have provoked deep internal divisions between Israelis about what events would be appropriate.

At the same time, Western intelligence experts have said that the main celebrations next May are likely to prove the focus for intensive terrorist attacks on Jewish targets in Israel and abroad. It is feared that spectacular attacks, including a return to air and ship hijacking could be involved, with Iran and Libya providing finance.

Almost no one emerged satisfied from a heated meeting of the Knesset's Interior Committee at which planners unveiled proposals for 12 months of celebrations including a fashion show at the Red Sea resort of Eilat. The programme would culminate in an international economic conference presided over by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, in November.

Deputies on the committee split into disaffected camps of European and Middle Eastern Jews and Israeli Arabs. Critics claimed that the plans reflected a long-standing bias in Israel to Western culture.

The only mention in the official document outlining the plans of Israel's Arab citizens — about one fifth of the 5.8 million population — is a "salute to minorities" in the Druze village of Horfeish in April. Taleb Sana, an Arab legislator, argued this was not enough.

Yesterday tension escalated on Israel's northern border after Hezbollah guerrillas fired a Katyusha rocket across the border from south Lebanon a day after Israeli shelling killed two Lebanese civilians.

The new upsurge of violence came 48 hours before Mr Netanyahu is due to attend a celebration on the occupied Golan Heights to mark 30 years since the territory was conquered from Syria, which Israel accuses of openly encouraging Hezbollah violence.

□ London: Yassir Arafat yesterday held talks in London with Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, to discuss the Palestinians' application for membership of the organisation (Glen Owen writes). Membership of the Commonwealth is currently restricted to independent states, but the group will hold a summit in Edinburgh in October to consider membership rules.



British-born Michael Foale, left, might have to repair the Mir space station in place of the unwell Commander Vasili Tsibliev, right, pictured earlier in their mission

Mir hitches raise fears over joint space ventures

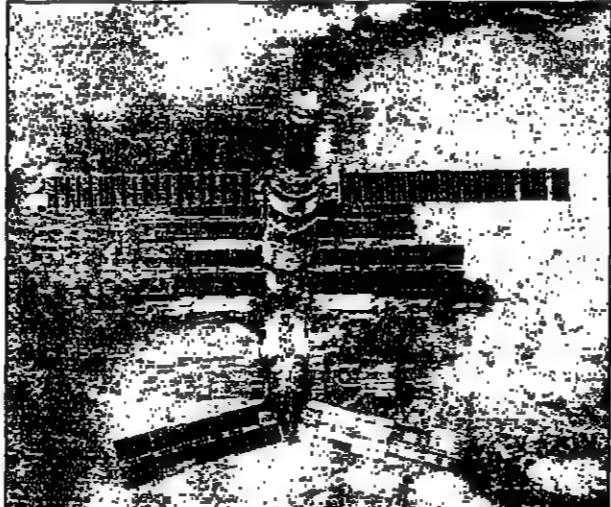
BY BRONWEN MADDOX AND ROBIN LODGE

NASA reacted coolly last night to the suggestion that Michael Foale, the British-born American astronaut on board the Russian space station Mir, may have to carry out repairs to the stricken complex in place of the flight commander, who is suffering from an irregular heartbeat.

The repairs, to reconnect power cables severed on June 25 when Mir collided with an unmanned cargo craft, were postponed indefinitely yesterday to allow doctors to assess the condition of Commander Vasili Tsibliev, who complained of cardiovascular problems on Monday. The Russian Mission Control doctor told the commander yesterday to take sedatives and medicine to stabilise his heartbeat.

Mr Foale has been trained in spacewalking, but has not performed the tricky manoeuvre. NASA said yesterday that the past three weeks had deepened the agency's "close working relationship" with the Russians. She added that, for both sides, safety of the astronauts was a priority, and that NASA had not yet decided whether to replace Mr Foale, who is due to return to Earth in September.

But the cool response cast new doubt on long-term collaboration between the two countries in space. Scientists and members of Congress have been asking whether the Russian space programme has fallen so far behind in technical capability and finances that joint efforts are



Repairs to Mir might have to wait until next month

worthless or even slowing down the United States.

For 15 years after the launch of *Sputnik* in 1957, the American and Russian space programmes raced each other in putting men into space, with virtually unlimited funds.

Eventually, the costs of attempting ever more demanding feats prompted collaboration. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States has been keen to continue joint programmes "to keep

Russian rocket engineers in Russia and out of North Korea," according to John Pike, space policy director of the Federation of American Scientists.

But Russia, short of funds and scientists, many of whom have emigrated to America, may now not be able to afford even collaboration. Launch of the International Space Station, due last November, has been put back to June 1998 because of Russian delays.

Missed heartbeats caused by stress

THE palpitations which disturbed Vasili Tsibliev, the 43-year-old Russian spaceman, as he lay in his bunk worried and sleepless on Friday night, judging from his own description and the reassuring remarks of the control doctor, were almost certainly the result of extra systoles. As the doctor said: "You have to calm down — healthy people

have such as coronary heart disease, aortic stenosis or cardiac failure. Usually multiple extra systoles are related to anxiety, stress, insomnia, caffeine, or alcohol. It will be reassuring that the Mir commander's ECG, taken after he noticed his palpitations, revealed no underlying abnormality and was within normal limits.

There are possible complicating factors. Commander Tsibliev's heart has been subjected to more prolonged strain than anticipated. The exercises designed to counteract the ill effects of weightlessness have had to be modified to conserve oxygen in short supply since the collision. Oxygen lack could also uncover any previously undetected weaknesses in Tsibliev's cardiac reserves.

This alarm raises the question as to whether it is wise to send 43-year-olds into space for prolonged trips.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

THE Hong Kong Government yesterday fended off attacks on its plans for the first legislative election under Chinese rule, saying it was not meant to limit representation of the pro-democracy camp.

Nicholas Ng, the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, said regardless of which electoral method was used, the populist Democratic Party could command all seats if it won enough votes.

If the community's aspirations are all uniform and everyone supports the Democratic Party, it doesn't matter which system you choose. They will grab all the seats," Mr Ng said.

His comments follow attacks on the government after last week's unveiling of electoral methods for Hong Kong's legislative election which will be held next May.

Under the plan, Hong Kong will drop the first-past-the-post method for the 20 seats of the 60-seat chamber to be directly elected from geographical constituencies, opting for a proportional representation system.

The territory will be divided into five constituencies, each with three to five seats depending on the size of population. In the last legislative election in 1995, the territory was divided into 20 smaller constituencies, each of which was allocated one seat.

But analysts and critics of the new system have predicted that pro-democracy parties are unlikely to repeat their strong 1995 showing in which they won the largest bloc of seats in the ousted colonial assembly. The assembly was replaced by a provisional chamber upon Hong Kong's handover to China on July 1.

Under the new electoral plan, functional constituencies will return 30 seats, while another 10 will be elected from an election committee formed with 800 permanent Hong Kong residents from different sectors.

Generals executed in purge of royalists following Cambodian coup

FROM TOM FAWTHROP
IN PHNOM PENH

loyalists and soldiers of the victorious CPP-Cambodian Peoples Party.

IN THE wake of last week's coup, in which Hun Sen, Cambodia's Second Prime Minister, took control of the country, between 35 and 40 royalist military officials, bodyguards and party activists have been summarily killed by his army

intelligence General Ly Sen Hon and General Sam Norin — have been killed.

Prince Ranariddh was the country's First Prime Minister until he was ousted last week during two days of fighting in Phnom Penh while he was in France.

A Western observer summed up the new killings by saying that the

six were either shot while in military or police custody, or were killed while being taken into custody.

The Government has accepted that Ho Sok, who had sought sanctuary in the Singapore Embassy in Phnom Penh, was forced to leave the building, then immediately arrested and shot while being held in custody at the Ministry of the Interior. An investigation has been ordered.

However, government sources have claimed that General Cheu Samnath committed suicide. According to a CPP military commander, General Sam Norin, royalist, was killed

"because soldiers got very angry"

after they had been hunting for him. They surrounded him and opened fire.

In the capital, several hundred Funcinpec (royalist) MPs, human rights activists and opposition journalists are still in hiding.

□ Election date: Cambodia's next election will be on May 23. Hun Sen said in an interview (Reuters).

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Royalty builds a new empire in Manhattan

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

MANHATTAN is awash with blue blood from around the world. Thumping its nose at America's royal heritage, the island now boasts more kings, queens and princelings per square mile than any other place on Earth.

New York's charms — lashings of easy money, a fawning reception from the natives, superlative restaurants and shopping, and even anonymity — have ensured that the city is home to more royalty than it knows what to do with.

According to *New York magazine*, the following live in the city: Crown Prince Pavlos and Princess Marie-Chantal of Greece; Princess Christina of The Netherlands; Prince and Princess Alexander Romanov of Russia; Prince and Princess Nikita Romanov of Russia; Empress Farah of Iran; Prince Osman of Turkey; Princess Yasmin Aga Khan; and Prince Amot Nyabongo of Toro, in Uganda.

The latter, a burly member of "New York's finest", is a policeman on the beat in Brooklyn, and his "proudest moment" was to appear once on the Oprah Winfrey Show. The rest are costume jewellers, art dealers, property developers and publishers. Many, of course, do no work at all.

The city also boasts a float-



Empress Farah: happy in the shopping capital

Woman's lost cash returned by cabbie

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A BRITISH woman aged 71 wept with relief here yesterday when a taxi driver returned a bag with her life's savings to her after she had left it on the back seat of his cab.

Gwendoline Weeks, a tired nurse, moved to New York from London 11 years ago. With an economic distrust of banks, and a fear that her neighbours would rob her, she always carries her nest egg with her — a sum totalling \$32,659 (£19,500).

Late last week, however, she forgot her precious bag in a taxi driven by Gurje Munir Tirmizi, 20, a Pakistani immigrant in his third week as a part-time cabbie.

After dropping Mrs Weeks off and driving some distance, he noticed the bag. Pulling over to check if it had an address, he was startled to find that it was stuffed full of dollar bills.

Mr Tirmizi, who is studying to be a jeweller, went straight

to the police. Rummaging through the bag, they found a piece of identification that helped them to track down Mrs Weeks. Later the overjoyed pensioner said of Mr Tirmizi: "He's a very nice kind gentleman. I don't think there's six like him. He's a child of God. I love him."

Turning down her offer of a reward, the taxi driver said: "I just need your blessings to get through my studies and succeed in life."

Yesterday Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, praised Mr Tirmizi as "a model citizen". He also revealed that Mrs Weeks had now promised to open a bank account.

In the past few months, doctors have begun cautiously to revise their view that infection with the HIV virus was a death sentence.

The new drugs — protease inhibitors — have shown more success than any previous treatments in halting the progress of Aids.

New drugs cut deaths from Aids

Washington: Deaths from Aids in America plunged by 19 per cent during the first nine months of last year because of the success of new drugs in treating the condition (Bronwen Maddox writes).

The fall to 30,700, compared with 37,900 in the first nine months of 1995, is also due to a slowdown in the spread of the HIV virus. Deaths among women dropped for the first time.

"We have entered a new era in the HIV epidemic, both in terms of treatment and prevention," said Dr Helene Gayle of the Atlanta-based Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the past few months, doctors have begun cautiously to revise their view that infection with the HIV virus was a death sentence.

The new drugs — protease inhibitors — have shown more success than any previous treatments in halting the progress of Aids.



Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece and his wife Crown Princess Marie-Chantal with baby Maria Olympia. They join numerous other royals charmed by the Big Apple

Abandoned yacht found adrift in Bermuda Triangle

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A ROYAL Navy frigate found a yacht abandoned and adrift in the Bermuda Triangle. Crews from HMS *London*, who boarded the 50ft German ketch *Ruth* in the mid-Atlantic last week were baffled to find clothes and personal belongings lying around the boat, and even a book open on a bunk.

HMS London's captain, Commander Iain Greenlees, of Campbelltown, west Scotland, said: "We spotted the yacht about 300 miles from Bermuda, on the edge of the Triangle and she looked immediately strange. She had no sails and there were mooring ropes hanging over the side. When we got no response, we sent a small team to investigate."

Inside the yacht, clothes were lying on a bunk, an ashtray was overflowing with cigarette ends and a book was left open as if someone was in the middle of reading it. Personal possessions, including a wedding ring and passports, were lying around the boat. Cmdr Greenlees said: "It looked as though someone had just stepped off it five minutes before, with every intention of returning. The first indication that it had been at sea for longer than that was when one of the team opened the fridge and was knocked back by the stench of rotting food."

The *HMS London* crew ascertained that the yacht belonged to a German couple in their 30s — Ralf Schilling and his wife, whose name is not known. They had sold their home and bought the *Ruth* second-hand, aiming to sail the world. Records showed they had sailed through the Bay of Biscay and past Spain to the Canary Islands last September when the trail runs cold.

Although it appears to have been adrift on the stormy Atlantic for ten months, the *Ruth* was in good condition, without a drop of sea-water on board. After 24 hours of cleaning and repairs to the rudder and sails, it was ready to sail to Puerto Rico, with a volunteer crew skippered by *HMS London's* doctor, Surgeon Lieutenant Suzanne Porter, 26.

When their navigational equipment and engine failed and they sailed into huge storms, the *HMS London* volunteers feared that they too had become victims of the notorious Bermuda Triangle, where ships and planes are reputed to have disappeared.

"When the equipment started failing, we wondered if there was some sort of curve on the boat and it was quite spooky being in the Bermuda Triangle, but morale kept up and we came through it unscathed," Lt Porter said.

Once out of the Bermuda Triangle, the equipment started working again, and the *Ruth* arrived safely in Puerto Rico to rejoin *HMS London* on July 12.

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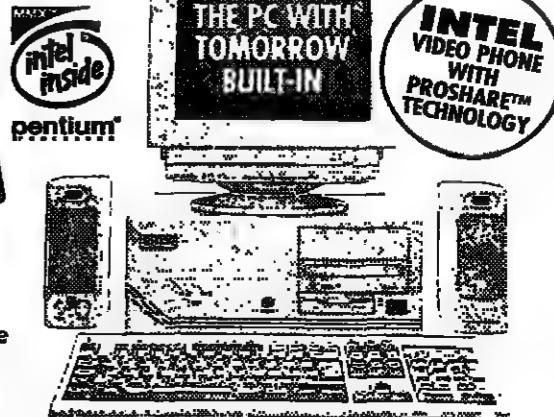
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Gianni Versace celebrating his 1995 spring and summer collection in Paris with model Claudia Schiffer

Elizabeth Hurley in that Versace dress at the première of *Four Weddings and A Funeral*

Gianni Versace will be remembered as the most unabashedly sexual designer of the late twentieth century — the man who made vulgar and tarty into an art form. He once said that he liked women to look "very good or very bad ... in between just doesn't work", and he amply fulfilled this design philosophy.

In Britain, his most famous creation is undoubtedly the safety-pin dress which held Liz Hurley together so precariously at the première of *Four Weddings and A Funeral*. Other famous customers included Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Cindy Crawford, Jane Fonda, and, latterly, Diana, Princess of Wales.

Breaking with the tradition of only wearing English designers, Diana wore several outfit by him when she visited Argentina in 1995. A short-sleeved pink suit and powder-blue two-piece were chosen from among his more conservative designs.

But there was much more to him than his celebrity client list. In the fashion world, the 50-year-old designer enjoyed a complex reputation. He was a masterful cutter, and when the late Diana Vreeland visited his workshop, she declared that no one could drap a dress like he could. Over the years, he has also been praised for his "operatic" use of colour, which sprang partly from his love of the theatre and spectacle. In the 1980s he even designed costumes for La Scala.

Versace's best designs had an opulent beauty. The clothes wrapped the body in a uniquely sensuous manner, creating strong strong silhouettes, and his plain column evening dresses, perfect little black numbers, and wonderfully cut jackets were objects of desire for wealthy women around the world.

Yet his designs often crossed the line into bad taste, with Versace appearing to relish the extra step. Joan Collins described one collection, which featured snakeskin print leather serpent dresses, as "tarts' clothes". His studded leather motorcycle jackets teamed with silk blouses and pleated skirts evoked all the glamour of a gangster's moll. One of the most famous images is of Linda Evangelista,



Gianni Versace turned glitz into an art form. But he was also a masterly cutter, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

photographed by Richard Avedon, in a tight column dress with jewelled bustier, printed all over with pictures of Warhol's Marilyn. There is even a matching bag, with a gold chain handle.

But if some questioned his Southern Italian style, Versace did not seem to mind, caring most for the opinion of his sister Donatella Versace, 11 years his junior. Her style credo was, "Less is not more. Less is ... less," and she also shared her brother's love of leather.

The bond between them was extremely strong, both emotionally and in terms of design. Her diminutive blonde looks were an inspiration to him, and she is credited with encouraging his brother to raise hemlines, heighten heels and ignore the cries for good taste. She now designs her own line, Versus. Despite

his flamboyant style and success, fashion remained for Versace a family concern. His brother Santo handled the business side, and Gianni himself started out as a designer and buyer for his mother's dressingmaking studio. From 1972 to 1977, he became a freelance designer, working for leading Italian fashion houses including Genny. His formed his own company in Milan in 1978, showing his first women's wear collection in 1978, followed by his first men's wear in 1979.

Always acutely conscious of commercial, he launched a perfume in 1981. Versace's creations for men were no more restrained than his women's wear. His most famous designs include silk shirts featuring South Beach motifs, Pop Art graphics and prints inspired by the Italian fashion.

Renaissance. The designer himself, however, favoured more conservative dress. He sometimes appeared to view himself as a sort of Renaissance prince holding court at his palazzo by Lake Como. The Medusa head, featured in his shops and was an insignia of the Renaissance.

His forays into patrician style notwithstanding, Versace's style remained, for the most part, glitz. He was one of the first designers to pay models £10,000 a show, and once paid Christy Turlington £50,000 to ensure her exclusive appearance. Flittingly, his couture shows were held above the swimming pool of the Paris Ritz.

In the fashion world yesterday, shock was the most common reaction to news of his death. Two years ago, Versace had fought off cancer. It was thought that his best years might still be ahead of him. This was clearly in Giorgio Armani's mind when he said yesterday: "The news of Gianni Versace's death has left me in a state of shock. Gianni was young and talented and he worked so hard. He had overcome a very serious disease with strength and dignity, embracing life with energy and a tremendous desire to accomplish things. Gianni Versace, together with a handful of names symbolise the success of Italian fashion."

'He is a symbol of the success of Italian fashion'



Versace's best designs had an opulent beauty. The clothes wrapped the body in a uniquely sensuous manner and were objects of desire for wealthy women around the world

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Have children become shyer, or is the world just more talkative?

Nigella Lawson



B lame is the currency of modern life: every week throws up a new culprit, a new victim. True, this week's winner is not new to the game. Parents consistently score high in the culpability count. And working parents — those who cannot be blamed for expecting the state to support them — are, ipso facto, found guilty for just about anything you'd care to choose.

This week's choice is shyness. A conference in Cardiff has announced that in the first instance shyness in children is increasing, and in the second, that working parents who don't have enough time to talk to their adolescent children are to blame.

I am prepared to accept that more people consider themselves

shy than used to (the conference cites a rise of 20 per cent) but that must be partly due to a change in outlook generally.

Self-confidence, self-esteem, self-worth: these are concepts that map out the contemporary sensitivity; years ago no one thought in such terms. A degree of reticence, of modesty was just good manners; now either is perceived as a permanent lack of assertiveness to be cured rather than commended.

I wouldn't begin to try to make a case for crippling shyness. There is nothing to be said for it, other than that it is utter torture. One can get over it, though. I was so shy all through my childhood that I don't think I ever spoke out loud (except at school where I was resolutely un-shy to make

up for it) and hated being spoken to. If anyone so much as addressed a question to me, I hated them and myself with a reddening vehemence.

Children and adolescents tend to be shy because they tend to be self-absorbed. My mother was probably quite right to tell me that my shyness was a form of self-centredness. ("No one's interested in you anyway," she used to say. She was probably quite right, though I wouldn't recommend it as the best cure for the problem.) But there is such a thing as a normal amount of shyness: precocity and unstoppable garrulosity are not the most attractive characteristics in a child.

One of the psychologists at this conference points the finger at two sources: parents and television, too little of the former and too much of the latter. The trouble is, you could ask any number of parents of teenage children and they'd tell you that the reason they don't talk to their children is not because they're working too hard, but because their children won't talk to them.

I was shocked when, a few weeks back, while doing a tour of schools to help promote healthy lunches, Education Secretary David Blunkett sat down opposite a 15-year-old girl who was eating nothing but an apple for lunch and was widely reported to have said: "Now that really is what I call healthy."

I'm sure many people agree with him. From the lack of comment following his remark, it's obvious that they did. Does no one think that it might be bad for a 15-year-old girl to have only an apple for lunch and what's more, be praised for it?

Now that really is what I call sick.

Try governing, Mr Blair

ONE can hardly blame the Prime Minister for being sensitive to the reactions of the electorate. Cynics and political commentators may point to the insulation of his huge majority, but the memory of what happened when the last Government felt itself to be impervious to the will of the public is a potent one. Last not surprised that Tony Blair wants to play it differently.

But much as one respects his desire to listen, I'm not sure his plan to set up some special focus group, ready to tell the Government where it's going wrong at every turn, is an encouraging sign. A good

leader needs to be a good listener, you can't take these words without hearing what's being said, a leader is flawed; but without hearing his own mistakes, a leader is lost.

It rather reminds me of the apocryphal story from the set of *Marathon Man*, when Laurence Olivier was purportedly a poten-

tial leader, but he was so

research gruesomely undertaken by Dustin Hoffman in preparation for his role: "I should try acting, dear boy," he famously advised.

Without being too impudent, perhaps one could suggest by governing, dear boy.

The Princess's crossed wires

IT'S HARD not to feel sorry for the Princess of Wales and even sadder for her sons, plagued as they are by photographers. I wonder, though, whether the Princess would feel less persecuted if she weren't such an obvious victim of her own reliance on the press pack.

A bit of self-awareness, in place of self-justification, would indicate that to complain about press attention, while talking to a boatload of tabloid hacks wearing nothing but a swimming costume, is certainly giving a mixed message. That's the modern way, anyway, for explaining the behaviour of a tease.

Offspring at the wedding

NO MORE than a postscript is needed to draw a line under the story of the vicar who thinks that children should be banned from marriage ceremonies.

It shouldn't really need to be pointed out to him that *unusually as many children are, they are what the vass is he conducting are all about*; But then, I'm not surprised that some of the clergy are ill-disposed towards children: when you come to think of it, many are not the marrying kind, either.

In *Jurassic Park* my char-

acter, Dr Ian Malcolm, started out as someone who is of limited orientation, but I think that through the crises he's involved in, he becomes some-



"A good part of myself comes out when I'm teaching. I find myself being instinctual, intuitive, communicative and caring in a way that surprises me."

From geek to hero

When Mike Tyson sank his teeth into Evander Holyfield's ear, Jeff Goldblum was in the front row of the spectators, and doesn't mind telling you that he found the whole thing "pretty exciting".

"Really fun," chirps Goldblum with a cheerleader's wraparound grin. Frankly, it's not what you expect from Hollywood's hottest intellectual property. Ever since he made his name as the bug-eyed boffin in *The Fly*, Goldblum has cornered the market in nerd-but-nice parts. In *The Double Helix* he played the scientist who discovered DNA. He was the mathematician who took uncalculated risks with raptors in *Jurassic Park*. Most recently, he saved the universe from marauding aliens as a computer expert in *Independence Day* and now he is back, wrestling theorems and Tyrannosaurus Rex with equal aplomb in Steven Spielberg's sequel to *Jurassic Park*, *The Lost World*.

The great thing about sequels, of course, is that you don't have to spend time and money setting out your stall. Why bother the audience with a whole new plot when you can blow the budget on bigger, better monsters? It takes a brave man to talk with conviction of "motivation" and "character growth" in a part that boils down to looking very scared and running like hell from a computer-generated menace, but a career spent spouting cod-scientific theories has given Goldblum a thorough grounding in West Coast claptrap:

"In *Jurassic Park* my character, Dr Ian Malcolm, started out as someone who is of limited orientation, but I think that through the crises he's involved in, he becomes some-

one who's ready to sacrifice himself for something larger than himself. That's a classical kind of transformational line," explains Goldblum with no flicker of irony.

He may be right, but the "transformational line" the audience is most likely to notice in *The Lost World* is that Goldblum has been upgraded from the geek in sensible shoes to a smouldering action hero, all glistening black leathers and a shiny red sports car.

This is a break, not just for Goldblum, but for the industry as a whole, for in today's mega-budget movie heroes, clever and sexy don't mix. For Goldblum, to recover the lost territory of Gregory Peck and David Niven, would be something of a coup.

"It would be neat," he agrees, blowing the whole deal with a single adjective. "It was certainly enjoyable in this movie to get to be the guy who was smart and active. Working with Steven [Spielberg] is always awesome but this was a very special experience."

There is no doubt Goldblum's sincerity or his thoughtfulness, but his habit of speaking like a studio-prepared press release gets in the way of his charm. It is as if, like his character in *The Fly* who got trapped in his own apparatus and turned into an insect, Goldblum has somehow become stuck in the Hollywood publicity machine and turned into Steford Star.

Maybe this is just what happens when an East Coast boy stays too long in LA. Goldblum was born in Pittsburgh in 1942, the third child of a successful doctor. In the past he has talked freely of a family where the children

were under constant threat of violence. "It was always a slap here and a slap there," he told reporters last year. "I remember feeling hemmed in, repressed, enraged. There were beatings with belts and always the threat of a beating. It was terrible and abusive."

These days, although he doesn't deny his earlier outpourings, Goldblum concedes that he may have "misstated, or rather miscommunicated" the case. "I mean," he says smoothly, "there was a struggle. When I got to be a teenager I had the common, painful difficulties with my parents, but I don't think my childhood was uncommonly unhappy."

On graduating from high school he went to study acting at Sandford Meissner's Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. "Sandy transmitted the notion that acting was a very worthwhile, serious thing to dedicate yourself to," says Goldblum, who now teaches

acting himself when he is between films in L.A. "Teaching is a very humbling kind of activity, but I love to try and do it. A good part of myself, which I enjoy, comes out when I'm teaching. I find myself being instinctual, intuitive, communicative and caring in a way that sometimes surprises me."

Certainly Goldblum's interest in others, whether spontaneous or programmed, to please, sets him apart from the average celebrity interview.

He constantly solicits your opinion on everything from his reading material (Robert Hughes's *History of Art in America* and Gabriel Garcia Marquez) to the rewards of parenthood. But on the subject of his own private life, he maintains a cordial discretion.

MARRIED for the first time at 23 to the actress Patricia Gaul, he met his second wife, Geena Davis, on the set of *The Fly* and married her in a drive-through ceremony in Las Ve-

gas. Divorced from Davis, he struck up an affair with *Jurassic Park* co-star Laura Dern.

When Dern left him for the Oscar-winning actor Billy Bob Thornton, Goldblum was said to be devastated but now, he says, "being single really feels OK". And Goldblum, it seems, has had it with high-profile relationships.

"I've had a little experience, and because of that experience I've got a strong feeling to keep my romantic personal life undisguised," he says, falling once more into the curious rhythms of Steford-Speak.

Goldblum brings the question to a close by the simple expedient of closing his eyes. Then, as if refreshed by a nanosecond's sleep, he jackknives his oft-skin frame on the hospitality suite sofa and springs back into PR-on-Prozac mode.

"It's not that I've been burnt by fame," he insists. "Fame is generally not unpleasant. And I'm grateful. Grateful is what I am. Yup." He stretches a yawn into a last, yard-long smile. "Actively grateful."

• *The Lost World* opens nationwide on Friday.

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Alan Coren



■ When a Princess and a grocer embrace, wait for the Punch line

Forgive me — for I cannot help it if the buckling walls of my cerebral attic are stacked with millions of old pictures, upon one or other of which a shaft of mottled sunlight will suddenly, unbidden, fall — but when I spotted those jolly fondlings aboard the good ship *Sakura*, there came into my head, willy-nilly, that scene in *The Godfather* when Don Corleone, *il capo di tutti capi*, puts his arms around a close friend, and hugs him. You know that hug. It is the hug which tells you that the hugger expects something from the huggée, which, if it is not delivered, will result in the hugger ending up as part of the New Jersey turnpike.

Is, then, the core issue now facing the bewildered nation this: who initiated the hugging? Mr Mohamed Al Fayed, or the Princess, it, which of them wanted something from the other? No, it is not the core issue is that *bark* of them wanted something from the other. The hugging, therefore, was that even more intriguing item, a spontaneous mutual grab. I know this because it would be well-nigh impossible to think of any two other people in the entire world who want things more. But what was it, in this case, that they wanted?

We all know what Mr Al Fayed wants; he wants to be Citizen Al Fayed; to which end, when formally frustrated by the Home Office, he made his bid for informal citizenship by snapping up large pieces of the nation's cultural jigsaw, from beloved traditional retail outlets and beloved traditional football clubs, to beloved traditional magazines and beloved traditional Members of Parliament. Indeed — though he chucklingly denies that the repainting of beloved traditional Hammersmith Bridge in the Harrods colours of green and gold had anything to do with him — he is even transforming the beloved traditional Depository beside that bridge into a community of 250 homes, to be called Harrods Village. Mr Al Fayed will soon have his own beloved traditional hamlet.

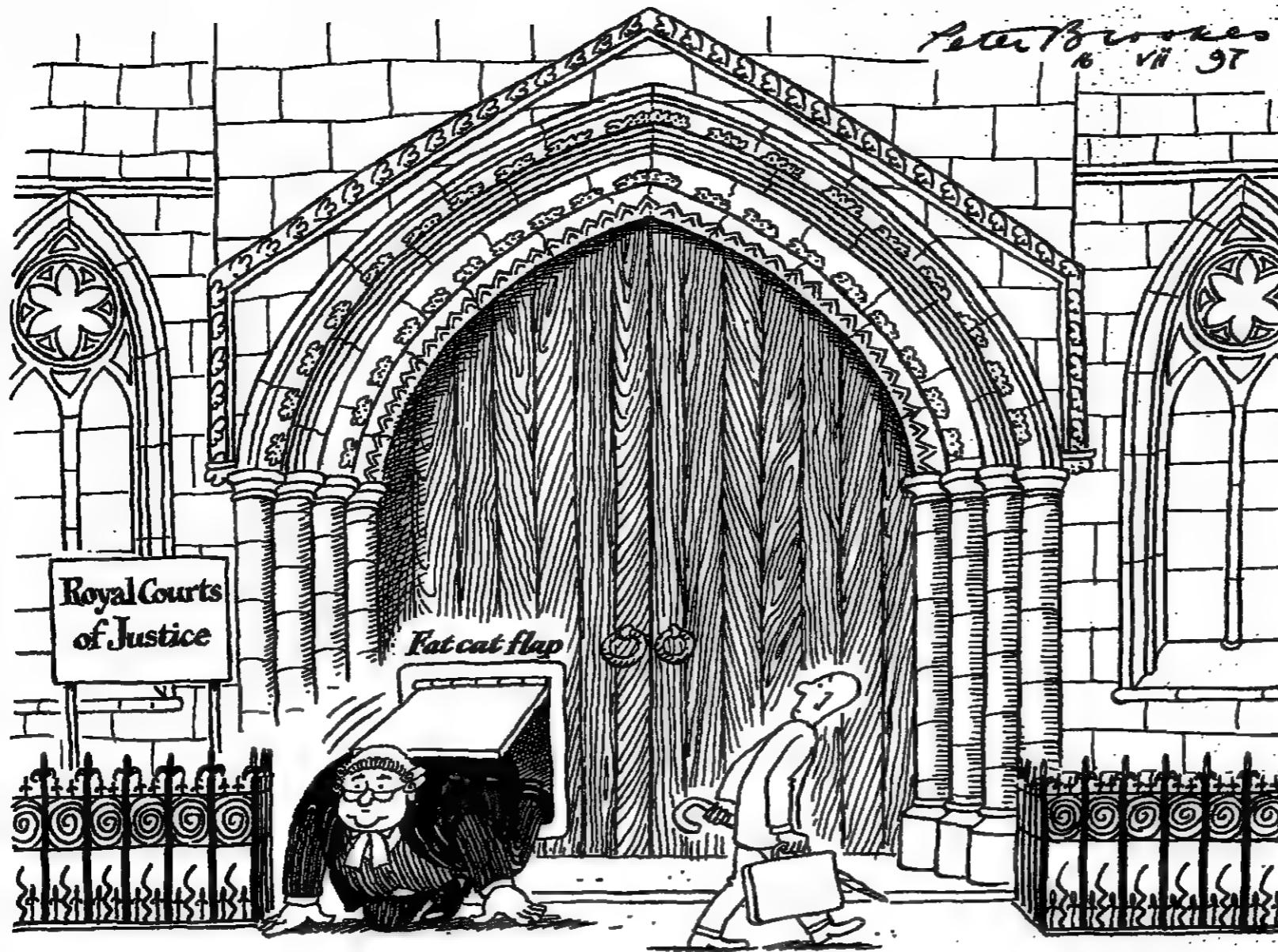
But, as yet, he doesn't have his own beloved traditional Royal. And if you are to become a truly major weaver of Britain's cultural wool — *Il Bottom*, as it were, *il tutto Botti* — then you cannot do without the glint of gold thread which only a Royal can offer. That is why Mohamed is hugging Diana. But what, precisely, does he want from her?

He wants precisely what she wants from him. Isn't that lucky? It means that nobody will end up as part of the New Jersey turnpike. The Princess wants not only love, respect, admiration, and a whole new wardrobe, she also wants the homage of the public prints, especially if her face is on the cover. Now, there is only one certain way of assuring this, and that is to have a public print of your own. Yes, she needs to be the editor of something really knockout. And if it could be something traditionally beloved, that wouldn't hurt either.

I sense that you are ahead of me. You have suddenly remembered that it is almost ten years since *Punch* had as its editor a gorgeous fashion-plate, thus ensuring that it was not only traditionally beloved but also enjoyed big sales and made big bucks. But it has had seven editors since then, each less gorgeous than the one before, its sales have plummeted, and today the big bucks do not get made, they get spent. It is hardly more than a year since it was bought by Mr Al Fayed, since which time some ten million bucks have vanished where the sun don't shine. So then, might there be any way of turning this beloved traditional artefact around, and might that way also put smiles as simultaneous as their yachtie hugs onto the faces of Mohamed and Diana?

Oh, I think we think there might, don't we? Any circulation manager will tell you that sticking the Princess's face on a cover puts 20 per cent on the sales, and if your second question were whether he would fancy handling a magazine behind which cover lay 200 pages of material known only to the Princess, and that every week there would be more where that came from, he would fall whimpering to his knees and inquire whether you knew Mephistopheles, because the circulation manager wanted desperately to do a deal involving his immortal soul.

And you would reply, no, not personally, but I know a man who does.



What news from the Piazza

The Marx Brothers' satire, *A Night at the Opera*, shows First Class passengers on a transatlantic liner strolling with brandy and cigars to the rear of the quarterdeck. There they look down on hundreds of Italian migrants packed into steerage, laughing, dancing, eating spaghetti, and applauding the Verdi arias of a stowaway tenor. The tenor, needless to say, is soon the star of the show.

At Monday night's gala to celebrate Covent Garden's two-year closure, I drifted between the Opera House and the Piazza outside, the Marx Brothers much in mind. In the Piazza, some 5,000 opera enthusiasts were camped out, watching Plácido Domingo, Sylvie Guillem, Bryn Terfel and Dacey Bussell relayed on a giant screen. They picnicked on the cobbles, drank wine on the verandas, chatted in the cool evening and cheered as lights played on Inigo Jones's facades. This was an urban Glyndebourne, the opera of the boulevards.

Two thousand people in "First Class" round the corner in Bow Street looked miserable. They were tied up in dinner jackets like lobsters in a cauldron, a spongey and cigars to the rear of the quarterdeck. There they look down on hundreds of Italian migrants packed into steerage, laughing, dancing, eating spaghetti, and applauding the Verdi arias of a stowaway tenor. The tenor, needless to say, is soon the star of the show.

At such moments,

wicked thoughts cross my mind. Why not preserve the Royal Opera House and redevelop its audience? By the date of reopening in 2000, every stick and stone of Covent Garden would surely be listable for preservation as industrial archaeology. The antique hangings, the lumpy seats, the chaises, the stage rigging worthy of the *Cat's Eye*, must all be unique. Likewise the famous "Spanish practices" backstage. Where would the Opera House be without its traditional off-sick fist, its Mickey Mouse payments and the carpenters on starvation wages? Such relics must not be lost to the nation.

Monday's Great and Good, I thought,

could be demolished and the doors thrown open with ease. Grand opera has never really been the British Establishment at play, more at playful prayer. Covent Garden is a modern "royal peculiar". Ever since its patron saint, Lord Goodman, persuaded successive Governments that subsidised opera mysteriously "trickled down" to

couriers, with Government officials and capitalist grandesse in attendance. Footmen flattered. Heads craned and sweat trickled. Who was sitting where? Who was that next to the Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret? Will the Majors talk to the Thatchers? Is that William Hague's girlfriend?

Back outside the irreverent camera panned along the Royal Circle and caught a phalanx of politicians standing to attention. The crowd let out an instinctive boo. Domingo and Bussell restored decorum by appearing on screen to salute the Piazza audience. Last year Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Alagna came out in person after their *Traviata* to say thank you to the throng. It was a populist coup de théâtre. Nobody from the Opera House thought to say thank you this time. Yet these were the fans of the show.

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exalt the taxpayer at large, a confidence trick has been under way. Those who like grand opera have grabbed what is now £15 million a year for their cultural tipple. I noticed that pride of placement on Monday went in officials and ministers, not to private wealth. The taxpayer remains the Great Sponsor.

The audience should have been asked to sing the final aria from *Fidelio*: "The Minister of State is come to save us! Oh, inexpressible joy!"

Yet all this is changing with closure.

The first change is nonsense. The Government is demanding that the Opera House improve accessibility by lowering the price of its seats.

This "affordability" correctness is a total waste. Subsidising a few tickets each night in a tiny theatre cannot qualify for £15 million of subsidy a year. I know who the beneficiaries would be. They are the people who sat in the Piazza, most of whom are among the half million who have enjoyed subsidised £10 tickets over the past five years. These are buffs who can afford a ticket once or twice a year, and would now afford a third. They are not a dispossessed proletariat. That proletariat either hates opera or prefers to hear it on CD. Why a handful of people should be given opera tickets at half the going price of a good football match (£20) beats me.

Opera is not for elites. That is a fallacy disproved by recording sales and the Three Tenors. It is for the rich. What costs money is watching opera on stage in person. The only way subsidising such enjoyment can be justified is not through widening access to a single performance but through disseminating it. Dissemination took place on Monday in the Piazza and on BBC television. In his interval speech, the Covent Garden chairman, Lord Charlton, promised more screen relays, more broadcasting, more recordings and cinema transmissions. This is the necessary change. He

will have a fight with his unions, who do not tolerate dissemination except for prohibitive payments.

Covent Garden in the past has polluted the well of arts subsidy. It has used specious arguments for its grants, and has wasted them when given. It tested the elitist fallacy to destruction.

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Let us be generous to the old guard. They also paid their dues. They fought as best they knew to save a portion of British culture. They deserve renovation, rather than redevelopment. When the Great and Good come back from their sabbatical, they can have a grand reunion. On can go the black ties and the royalty. Off can go the air conditioning. The champagne can be warmed, the footmen liveried. As the music dies, this tency dress audience should stand stock still. The doors will then open and in can pour the occupants of the Piazza to admire their elders' endurance and discipline.

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Simon Jenkins

It's in the

Dead girl's award to be challenged

SIXES AND SEVENS

The new grading of teachers will be too imprecise

Matthew Arnold, perhaps Britain's most famous school inspector, understood the problems of grading teachers even in Victorian times. Teachers, he said, "are the greatest gamblers by a system of reporting which clearly states what they do and what they fail to do; not one which drowns alike success and failure, the able and inefficient, in a common flood of vague approbation". More than a century later, it is this culture of vague approbation that the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) is fighting against. Whether its proposed changes in assessment will help is another matter.

At the moment, teachers are graded by Ofsted inspectors on a sliding scale from one (excellent) to seven (unsatisfactory). The trouble is that inspectors are loath to award sixes and sevens. These grades necessitate a confrontation with the teacher concerned and extra attendance at the teacher's lessons. Worst of all, for some inspectors, is the thought of the consequences that might follow for the poor teacher:

As a result, only 38 out of 4,900 teachers inspected were given such a grade last year, according to the latest Ofsted report, less than 2 per cent of the total. Ofsted's proposed solution is to reduce the number of grades to three: with teachers who formerly would have been marked one or two in the top set, threes and fours in the middle, and fives, sixes and sevens at the bottom. The idea is that inspectors will be less reluctant to award the bottom grade where it is due.

Ofsted will continue to grade lessons on a seven-point scale, which will provide useful information to the head. But the blurring of distinctions in the teacher assessment process that Matthew Arnold praised. There is a difference, which should be recognised, between a teacher who is good and one who is excellent. It should also be possible to distinguish between one who is a

little worse than average and another who should not be allowed near a classroom. A headteacher needs to be told whether the inspectors think that a teacher's career can be rescued with a little remedial training, or whether it merits a P45.

If inspectors are reluctant to divulge this information, Ofsted's proposed solution is an admission of defeat. The problem should be soluble at source. If former teachers, who make up the bulk of the inspectorate, are oversympathetic, perhaps the lay representation should be increased. Ofsted needs to recruit more inspectors who share the Government's "zero tolerance of failure", and are concerned more about the children than the staff.

Certainly inspectors and teachers should be reassured that a bad Ofsted grade cannot alone destroy a career. Headteachers, who work with their staff day in and year out, should know them better than a stranger who sits in on a few lessons in the course of a week's inspection. An Ofsted grade can be a useful confirmation of head's own assessment; but if it is undeserved, the head will be the first to know. The function of Ofsted, like that of a management consultant, is to reinforce what managers already realise or suspect, and to give them ammunition to make the necessary changes.

To headteachers, the most useful reform will be a streamlining of disciplinary proceedings for teachers, as outlined by Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, in May. He wants to see incompetent teachers sacked, and would like the time that this takes to be cut from an average of 18 months to six. Teachers' unions should welcome this move. If they want to be treated as a profession, they should be as intolerant of low standards as any other group of professionals. Only then will they be able to restore the professional pride and respect that teaching deserves.

THE COSTS OF DIVISION

Cyprus cannot maintain the status quo

For the first time for years there is a glimmer of good news from Cyprus. President Clerides briefed Tony Blair yesterday on his recent talks with Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, saying that the Troubeck meeting — assiduously prepared by the United Nations and British and American special envoys — had yielded encouraging results. The two men, former colleagues in colonial days, renewed their acquaintance in total seclusion. They made enough progress to agree to further meetings in Nicosia to resolve urgent humanitarian questions. And they will meet again for constitutional talks in Switzerland next month.

Given the repeated failure of earlier meetings, diplomats are wary of any talk of a breakthrough. But it does seem possible that this time they have got the formula right. Using the example of Dayton, they have eschewed palliatives and partial resolutions and have proposed a complete package for a lasting settlement. This includes steps to establish a bizonal, bicommunal federation, a redrawing of the map to reduce the Turkish area from 37 to 28 per cent, return of compensation for refugees and the withdrawal of the 36,000 Turkish troops. If the package were agreed, its implementation would be phased, with specific timetables for a referendum, the new constitutional arrangements and the troop withdrawal.

Britain, with sovereign bases and a large UN presence on Cyprus and some 350,000 Cypriots living here, has a vital interest in a settlement. Mr Blair made clear yesterday that this country will underpin any measure to rebuild confidence between the two communities. Division has gone on too long, at too high a cost.

GOLDEN OLDIES

A good excuse for a celebration

We are living through a golden age for golden weddings. In glorious summer sunshine, a garden party took place yesterday at Buckingham Palace for some 4,000 fortunate couples chosen by ballot from among those who, like the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, celebrate their 50th anniversary this year. Across the country, 35,000 other aureate couples have received a letter of congratulation from the Sovereign and her Consort. The monarchy shows itself to best advantage in such discreet yet munificent displays of national solidarity. What, though, are we supposed to be celebrating?

First, the institution of matrimony. Fifty years ago, there was anxiety about divorce, as hasty wartime marriages collapsed. Yet, in only one in ten marriages then ended in divorce, the figure has more than trebled since. There are many explanations for this change, not all of them self-deceiving; but those couples whose vows have stood the test of time have every reason to rejoice. They are likely to have married younger than most couples do today, but also to have lived longer than their predecessors: the first NHS generation has had a good innings. Though life expectancy will doubtless rise further, it may not keep pace with a falling birthrate, later nuptials and greater divorce. So it could be a while before we see so many golden weddings again.

We are also celebrating the postwar British renaissance. It takes an effort to imagine ourselves back to July 1947, even for those who remember Attlee's Labour Gov-

ernment tried to run a war economy in peacetime, and even bread was rationed for the first time. Shortages afflicted almost everyone: that July *The Times*, like other newspapers, was obliged to cut its size for the second time in a year, and in September women were urged to wear shorter skirts to save material.

It was no great summer for honeymoons abroad: exchange controls were draconian, while affordable air travel and package holidays belonged to the future. It had been easier to make a virtue of Britain's island status during the war. After the euphoria of victory had come disillusionment: building the socialist Jerusalem was an uphill task, and the Cold War had just begun. Amid Europe's ruins, dark visions of past and future were taking shape. Primo Levi's *If This is a Man* and Albert Camus' *The Plague* appeared that year; George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-four* followed in 1949.

Yet 1947 was not a bad dawn in which to be alive: the year of the Marshall Plan and Dior's New Look; the year when American musicals hit the West End and Edinburgh held its first international festival. Even in the most straitened circumstances, to be young is very heaven. For those whose marriages have now ripened into old age, it will always remain a year of grace.

Last, but not least, we celebrate the lives and loves of the jubilee couples. Their children and grandchildren may not always follow their example, but the golden oldies remain an inspiration for the whole nation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Realities of power in Hong Kong

From Sir Robin McLaren

Sir, Jonathan Dimbleby's privileged and openly partisan account of Mr Christopher Patten's governorship of Hong Kong will no doubt give rise to many articles similar in tone to Simon Jenkins's, "The Governor, treason and plot" (July 12; see also letters, July 1, 7). Allegations of betrayal and Foreign Office conspiracies always make good copy.

I led the British team during the abortive negotiations with China about Mr Patten's electoral reforms in 1993. I supported what he was trying to achieve then, and have done so since. But these are not black and white questions. Time alone will tell whether the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people, which are what matters, will have been reinforced or damaged by the bitter disputes with China of the last few years.

What is deplorable and offensive is the imputation that the ministers, governors and officials responsible for the handling of Hong Kong affairs before Mr Patten's appointment had no interest in the cause of democracy in Hong Kong, seeing it as a distraction from the proper business of cultivating good relations with China.

From the signature of the Joint Declaration in 1984 onwards a key issue for British policymakers was not whether to develop democratic institutions in Hong Kong but how to do so in a way which would not only meet the aspirations of people in Hong Kong but last beyond the change of sovereignty.

In the 1980s the Government's judgment was that that objective was best achieved by working so far as possible with the Chinese who were then drafting the Basic Law, a process which the Canadian system, which preserves parliamentary sovereignty whilst protecting rights, if Canadian courts have to resolve a conflict between their charter of rights and other legislation, charter rights are given precedence.

The statute is rarely struck down; instead the courts either "read in" the missing rights or make it clear that in the particular circumstances part of the statute no longer applies. Parliament can then choose to re-enact the statute, adding a clause stating that the provision applies "notwithstanding" the charter. Fortunately the Canadian Parliament rarely takes this action.

If this system had been in place Mr Mackenzie's client could have received the justice he deserved in the courts in this country.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director,
The National Council for
Civil Liberties,
21 Tabard Street, SE1.

July 11.

From Professor Peter Rowe

Sir, Whilst I have great respect for the views of John Mackenzie I do not feel that he has been entirely fair to the judges who, he comments, "go to great lengths to avoid disrupting state administration, particularly for some reason in matters involving the Armed Forces".

Mr Mackenzie draws attention to the proceedings in the Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench Division in the Findlay case, where leave to apply for judicial review was refused. The point raised by Mr Mackenzie is

Smoking debate

From Mrs Jacqui Lait

Sir, In the debate about tobacco advertising and sponsorship (report and leading article, July 14) underage children, particularly girls, are assumed to be attracted by the lifestyles implied by the tobacco companies. I am afraid that is too easy.

Some children passing through puberry use tobacco as a prop to help establish them as independent people, to deal with their uncertainties and confusions, and to challenge the "grown-ups". If tobacco is made harder to obtain, they will replace it with something else that will still challenge the norms of adult society.

Whilst our tobacco duty remains so much higher than that on the Continent, and every Budget increases the differential, the smuggling and bootlegging of tobacco will continue to be hugely profitable. Children will continue to be able to get hold of tobacco products cheaply.

History shows that the only way to stop smuggling is to take the profit out of it. If the Government seriously wants to reduce tobacco consumption, health ministers could be more successfully engaged in persuading their continental counterparts to put up customs duties, rather than taking the easy but more high-profile option of banning advertising.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUI LAIT
(Conservative MP for Hastings and Rye, 1992-97),
Leasam Grange, Leasam Lane,
Rye Foreign, East Sussex.
July 14.

Pay as you learn

From Dr Anthony Clayton

Sir, Obviously if universities charge tuition fees of £1,000 a year or more (article, "Payment by degrees", July 9), students from poorer families will face difficulties that are perhaps insuperable.

How about a National Scholarship Fund funded from the National Lottery?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY CLAYTON,
De Montfort University,
Institute for the Study of
War and Society,
Polhill Avenue, Bedford.
July 11.

Bill of Rights and role of judiciary

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, John Mackenzie (letter, July 11) suggests that a Bill of Rights would not answer his client's problem about the unfairness of the courts-martial system. I am sure that the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law will not cure all our ills and that the rights in the Convention need to be improved on with a domestic Bill of Rights.

Neveretheless the Government's proposal to incorporate it will contribute significantly to the protection of human rights in this country.

Whether the new system would have helped Mr Mackenzie's client will depend first on whether our judges are properly trained in the law of the Convention and are committed to make decisions in line with international human-rights jurisprudence.

Secondly, Parliament needs to ensure that the Act that incorporates the Convention is given sufficient status so that the courts can ensure that laws are applied without violating human rights. This may mean adopting the Canadian system, which preserves parliamentary sovereignty whilst protecting rights. If Canadian courts have to resolve a conflict between their charter of rights and other legislation, charter rights are given precedence.

The judges were faced with a clear statutory provision. The issue is not, as Mr Mackenzie suggests, to deny the efficacy of a Bill of Rights, but to ensure that existing legislation is amended (as in the case of the Armed Forces Act 1996) in the light of the decision of the European Commission on Human Rights in the Findlay case so as to comply with it. In addition, the role of the judges in dealing with possible conflicts will need to be carefully considered.

The judges have become involved in "disrupting" the administration of the

Armed Forces in granting judicial review in one recent case, R v Admiralty Board of the Defence Council ex parte Coupland (1995).

But of the names of the three great

administrators and general directors of the past 50 years — David Webster (1949-70), John Tooley (1970-85) and Jeremy Isaacs (1988-97) — there was not a mention. These were the men who, against all the odds and with the indifference of successive governments, have created a great institution.

The Royal Opera House wouldn't be there to rebuild if it wasn't for them. Webster with his vision, Tooley with his tenacity and Isaacs with his canniness have been true professionals in an amateur world.

If you run a national institution you must, like Nelson on his column, expect the attention of passing pigeons. But you are entitled to a little named support from the home team.

Yours,

PETER HALL
(Director, The Peter Hall Company, The Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1). July 15.

Missing names from curtain call

From Sir Peter Hall

Sir, As you report today, the last night of the Royal Opera House on July 14 was a great celebration, but the heart sank when the speeches began.

The chairman of the development appeal (Vivien Duffield) thanked the past and present chairmen of the board and those who had given money to the building fund; the present chairman thanked the past chairman, the appeals chairman, the audience, and finally the artists.

But of the names of the three great administrators and general directors of the past 50 years — David Webster (1949-70), John Tooley (1970-85) and Jeremy Isaacs (1988-97) — there was not a mention. These were the men who, against all the odds and with the indifference of successive governments, have created a great institution.

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PETER HALL
(Director, The Peter Hall Company, The Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1). July 15.

Classical acting

From Mr David Suchet

Sir, I am very aware that the standards of verse-speaking in our classical dramas are declining (report and leading article, July 4). Sadly nowhere is it more evident than in our major national companies, although I note that the Royal National Theatre is responding to the challenge (letter, July 14).

Might I humbly suggest that the Royal Shakespeare Company, in particular, creates a postgraduate drama school where training in verse-speaking for actors who wish to act in classical repertoire could be most successfully undertaken.

Originally the Guildhall School of Speech and Drama was intended to be linked with the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican. This failed to happen. I sympathise with drama schools in that they have to produce actors for our modern world, but the classics, and Shakespeare in particular, are our greatest theatrical heritage and part of any actor's repertoire has to be the skill of verse-speaking.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID SUCHET,
c/o ICM,
Oxford House, 76 Oxford Street, W1.

Cathedral closure

From Lady Bannerman

Sir, On arriving at Ely Cathedral yesterday we were told that this place of worship was closed to visitors (and those wishing to pray) for five days because there was a "Flower Festival". We entered, despite the protestations of the flower gatekeepers, only to find the place alive with flower arrangers.

A gaggle of flower police made an unsuccessful attempt to expel us, whereupon one of them shamed down the nave for extra support from a canon. This cleric duly barred our way, protesting that he was busy. Royalty was expected, and in any case with the bishop et al. did by law own the cathedral and had the right to close it at any time.

Now what was a convent-reared girl like myself to do? There weren't many money changers in evidence, but should I have driven the whole lot out of the temple? Should I have overturned the tables of the huge flower arrangements? Do we need another religious revolution? Count me in.

Yours,
ROSE BANNERMAN,
3 St Georges Road, St Margarets,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
July 11.

Childrearing costs

From Councillor George Richey

Sir, Your headline (July 10, earlier editions), "Sterilised mother who had baby wins £100,000", was based on the opposite page, heading an article on the cost of bringing up a child, with "Why parents are £50,000 out of pocket".

An indication of future inflation perhaps.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE RICHEY,
The Milnroft,
West Felton, Shropshire.

Further to your letter

From Mr Roger Conklin

Sir, Please publish this letter. I am old, sad and unbearably lonely, and would derive maximum benefit (on all fronts) from an anonymous Fortnum & Mason hamper (letter, July 15).

Yours, in anticipation of imminent relief,<br



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 15: Major General Iain Mackay-Dick was received by The Queen this morning upon relinquishing his appointment as Major General Commanding the Household Division when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

His Excellency Mr Mohammad Khodro and Mrs Khodro were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Syrian Arab Republic to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Dr Ante Cicin-Sain and Mrs Cicin-Sain were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Croatia to the Court of St James's.

The Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda was received by The Queen.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the Garden of Buckingham Palace as part of their Golden Wedding celebrations.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms and The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard were on duty.

The Bands of the Life Guards and the Royal Artillery played selections of music during the afternoon.

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening held the judging of The Prince Philip Prize for the Designer of the Year at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this afternoon attended a Luncheon at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended the Cottage Homes Dinner at St James's Palace.

The Baroness Gould of Pomeroy (Baroness in Waiting) called upon The President of the Republic of Cyprus at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1, this morning and, on behalf of Her Majesty, welcomed His Excellency on his arrival in this country.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Baroness Gould of Pomeroy (Baroness in Waiting) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Lord Taylor of Gosforth (formerly Lord Chief Justice of England) which was held in St Paul's Cathedral this afternoon.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Mr Nicolas Adamson. The Lady Susan Hussey has

succeeded Mrs Christian Adams as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 15: The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening took the Salute at the Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London SW5.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 15: The Princess Royal, Patron, SENSE - the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, this morning opened the new building at Blackmarston School, Honiton Close, Hereford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester [Sir Thomas Dunne].

Her Royal Highness later opened Ross Community Hospital, Alton Street, Ross-on-Wye, and was received by Lieutenant Sir John Cotterell [Deputy Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester].

The Princess Royal this afternoon opened Kidderminster Library, Market Street, Kidderminster, and was received by Sir Thomas Dunne.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

July 15: The Prince of Wales, Patron, ActionAid, this morning attended a seminar on adult literacy and afterwards attended a tea at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the new Roman Gallery at the British Museum, London WC1.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this evening attended the launch of "Principles of Corporate Community Investment" at the National Liberal Club, Westminster, London SW1.

KENSINGTON PALACE

July 15: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Honorary President, the British Museum Development Trust, was present this evening at the Annual Dinner for Patrons and other friends of the Museum at the British Museum, London WC1.

KENSINGTON PALACE

July 15: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, the Blackie Foundation Trust, this afternoon received Mr Robin Holland-Martin, Vice President and past Chairman of the Trust.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy President, today visited the East of England Agricultural Society Show, Peterborough, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire [Mr James Crowden].

YORK HOUSE

July 15: The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this evening attended the Annual Dinner at Claridge's, Brook Street, London W1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

July 15: Princess Alexandra, the Blackie Foundation Trust, this afternoon opened the new St Luke's Nursing Wing at St Katharine's House, Ormond Road, Wantage, and was received by Mr Charles Parker [Vice Lieutenant of Oxfordshire].

College of Estate Management

Sir Idris Pearce, CBE, TD, DL, presented Diplomas in Arbitration and Facilities Management to students of the College at a ceremony in London yesterday. Mr John Parry, Chairman of the College presided and Mr Peter

Goodacre, Principal, gave an address.

The Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the Chairman of the British Institute of Facilities Management were among the guests.

**BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000**

For God alone I wait silently; my deliverance comes from him. He is only in my rock of deliverance, my strong tower, where I trust; I am not unshaken. Psalm 62: 12

BIRTHS

SHINWA - On July 12th at The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, London, a son and Yosuke, a beautiful daughter, Natsumi.

STRATTON - On July 14th at The Portland Hospital to Lisa (née Weston) and Richard, a son, Daniel.

TOPHERSON - On July 16th in France (née Partridge) and Paul, a son, Christopher.

VAN BRUTEN - On 11th July to Fiona (née Hobart) and David, a son, Christopher, and Fiona, 5 sisters, for Christmas.

WALIATT - On July 11th at the Portland Hospital, a son, Daniel, and a daughter, Alexandra.

WEBB - Rachel, Andrew and Jemima are delighted to announce the birth of Seamus, a son, on July 11th.

MARDINS - On 24th July, Seamus 3rd Son Hardinge of Farnham, Surrey, born at 1.15pm, a short illness. Husband of Margaret, father of Julian, Hugo, David, Steven and Christopher. Services on Monday 21st July 2pm at The Church of St Peter and St Paul, Newmarket, followed by a service in Scotland. Private flowers only, donations if desired to The Hospice, 12 St John's Hill, Newmarket, Suffolk CO15 6JL. Tel 01440 750416.

WILLIAMS - On July 11th at The Portland Hospital to Samantha (née Pringpont) and Richard, a son, James, a daughter, Jennifer.

WHITE - On July 12th at Kingstone Hospital, a son, Barnaby, and a daughter, Emma, a sister for Christmas.

WHITFIELD - Sambo 12th July at The Portland Hospital to Edwina (née Jenkins) and AT Daniel, a son, Daniel, and sons, Faizah and Jamil.

EVANS - On July 13th at The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, to Joanne (née Aylmer) and Bernie, a son, Daniel.

GARRETT - On July 13th 1997 at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to Amanda and Jonathan, a daughter, Natasha.

HOBBS - On July 13th 1997 to Derek and Carolyn (née Wardale), a son, Kingstone Hospital, a son, Barnaby and a daughter, Emma Jane, a sister for Christmas.

HEATH - On July 13th at The Portland Hospital to Edwina (née Jenkins) and AT Daniel, a son, Daniel, and sons, Faizah and Jamil.

LIVLES - On 8th July 1997 at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to Amanda and Jonathan, a daughter, Natasha.

MCINTOSH - On July 13th at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to Robert and Carolyn, a son, Michael Lionel, a brother for Robert and Natasha.

PERRY - On July 13th at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to Helen and Paul, a daughter, Holly Olivia.

RALPH - On June 20th at home, to Bryony (née Reid) and Jeffery, a son, Alexander John, a brother for Alan and Emily.

ROALVSGRENEN - On July 12th, in Los Angeles to June and Jim, a son, James, a daughter, Kristin.

SCOTT - On July 13th 1997 at The Portland Hospital to Samantha (née Hinchley) and Alexander, a daughter, Sophie.

SHRIKH MONAGAMA - Anuradha, wife of Saman, died peacefully at home on 12th July 1997 aged 81.

THOMAS - On July 13th at The Portland Hospital to Barbara and son, Saman, a son, Saman, a brother for Rohan and Saman.

WHITE - On July 14th in West Croydon, accompanied by her son, William, a daughter, Elizabeth and father of Robert, Richard and Mark.

CARTWRIGHT - Lucette, Sepulchre, Peacefully at home on 12th July.

DAVIES - John Alvin Davies died peacefully at home on 12th July 1997 aged 87.

DELL - On July 14th at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to David, a son, Michael Lionel, a brother for Robert and Natasha.

FRY - On July 14th at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to Helen and son, Saman, a son, Saman, a brother for Rohan and Saman.

GOVINDARAJ - On 14th July in West Croydon, accompanied by her son, William, a daughter, Elizabeth and father of Robert, Richard and Mark.

HOPE - On July 14th at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to Barbara and son, Saman, a son, Saman, a brother for Rohan and Saman.

JOHNSON - On July 14th at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to Barbara and son, Saman, a son, Saman, a brother for Rohan and Saman.

MAK - On July 14th at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to Barbara and son, Saman, a son, Saman, a brother for Rohan and Saman.

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MCINTOSH -

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

BBC governors, please stand up for our rights

The other night I heard something I never expected to hear — Michael Grade being boring. Such a showman, but he was so overwhelmed by his farewell salute from the Royal Television Society that he fell into intermittently recounting the joys and sorrows of his career, and people were tiptoeing out at the back by the time he went on the attack.

Then he was on form. Is anyone happy working for the BBC, he asked. He prayed that his successor at Channel 4, Michael Jackson, would forget all the "management tosh" learnt at the BBC. He was appalled at what the administration is doing to the BBC. And what can you expect from the governors — worthies appointed in conditions of secrecy that owe more "to masonic ceremony than to democracy"?

On July 24 the BBC governors will have another chance to show what they are made of. Will they dare call a halt to the radical changes proposed for Radio 4? Or will they fall for the management blarney about fossilisation, museum pieces need to refurbish, new digital age ahead, etc, etc?

The governors should protest — yes, even resign — if they cannot achieve a reprieve, not for any particular programme, but rather for what looks like the wholesale disregard for the sensibilities of the audience. To take away one old favourite from listeners is to inflict pain; to snatch away as many as 20 is to inflict a trauma, an assault on habits and expectations that leaves people shocked, grieving, destabilised. As a frequent participant in *Start the Week*, one of the threatened programmes, I am often astonished at how many people do start their week with it: they read the books, they argue over the ideas and remember points they feel were mishandled or could have been made.

There is a great mass of Middle England that structures its day by Radio 4. Why should they, the BBC's staunchest defenders, lose so many landmarks at once? Because the audience figures drop in the long intervals between the news? Ridiculous. The main reason why audiences sag after *Today* is that by 9am, people leave the house or have reached work. No scheduling sleight of hand is going to raise mid-morning and mid-afternoon drive-time levels.

Something more sinister is afoot. I hope the governors have noticed. It is the BBC brass's obsession with news. They cannot get enough of it, but viewers and listeners can. The much-vaunted success of Radio 5 Live comes from its sports coverage, not from its news. There is little or no demand for a 24-hour TV news network, for which plans are racing ahead (with the word "digital" usually omitted, thus concealing the fact that few viewers will be able to watch it).

The loud objections to the whole idea



BRENDA MADDOX

raised recently when the BBC organised its consultation exercise on the digital future did not slow down these plans. Rather, they are recorded in the BBC annual report — released last week — as "suggested modifications which those developing the services are taking into account". Even the beleaguered World Service is to be further undermined by a gratuitous adjunct of a 24-hour World Service News, an expensive novelty which can serve only to split the world audience and divert attention from all those fusty *Kaleidoscope*-type features on the older World Service.

An irony of the BBC's current thinking is that its leaders are quite willing to tolerate, even defend, an excess of news such as they provided during the general election. BBC1 *Nine O'Clock News* was extended for an hour while the viewers fled elsewhere. The BBC's answer was bold and proud: audience size is not important; public duty is what matters.

The same proud defence, however, was not available to the worthy flops in BBC drama, *Nostromo* and *Rhodes*. John Birt, the Director-General, has apologised for their disappointing failure. He said the BBC must try for "greater consistency" in future.

What ever happened to the "right to fail"? That is what the BBC is there for — to take risks. In book publishing, in theatre and in cinema, it is axiomatic that most efforts fail but that the successes cover the failures. There simply is no reason to apologise for *Rhodes* and not for the election over-cover.

The BBC governors should show that they can do more than rubberstamp what the managers put before them. In objecting to the shock about to be delivered to "the home of quality, intelligent speech radio" (BBC annual report again), they do not need to doubt the promise of the controller, James Boyle, that he is not "dumbing down" Radio 4. But they must consider the chance that he may be wrong.

Risks to a programme are not as dangerous as risks to the spirit of a network. This BBC management has once before disregarded cries of pain and grief among listeners when it dispensed with a raft of disc jockeys from Radio 1.

What was achieved? Radio 1 needed to bring in Chris Evans to stop the slide in audience figures. The cure proved worse than the disease and now, with Evans gone, Radio 1 is in trouble and bad news is said to be on the way with the next quarterly audience figures.

Radio 1 had lots of commercial competitors. Radio 4 has none. It is unique in the world, in its programmes and in the respect in which it is held by its listeners. They don't deserve the shock therapy that is promised.

The Client's Story

All the glory, or the blame, goes to the creatives and the agencies when a new advert appears. But what of the person who bought the ad, the person who said yes, the person with nerves of steel, the one who crossed their fingers and signed the cheque?

• PEPSI



After Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, it's the Spice Girls' turn to improve Pepsi's sales

THE CLIENT
Simon Lowden, 29,
marketing manager,
PepsiCo International

WAS IT EXPENSIVE?
We got a deal at the
end of last year with the
Spice Girls. The actual
figure is a moving
number: it's a
relationship with them.
We get their fans and,
in return, we're increasing
their exposure in
places they can't get to,
such as Tesco,
Safeway, etc. This
summer we'll release a
Spice Girls CD you can
get only by collecting
ring pulls. The actual
advert itself cost the
same as our other ads do.
A normal one costs
about £200,000.

**WHAT OTHER
CAMPAIGNS HAVE
YOU BOUGHT?**
Lynx (the one with the
can rolling down the aisle
of the bus), Brut
(featuring Helena
Christensen, Paul
Gascogne).

THE AGENCY:
Abbott Mead Vickers
BBDO.

WHAT'S THE PLOT?
The Spice Girls sing a
new track called *Move
Over* ("Move over, next
stage, next time, next
place, move over")
while gyrating in front of
buildings, throwing
cans in the air. It's shot in
LA.

**WHAT'S THE
STRATEGY?**
We are the cola for
youth. We want to engage
young minds.

**WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE BLUE CAN?
DIDN'T IT GO A BIT
FLAT?**
We still have it. It's a
way of distinguishing
ourselves from our

competitors. Last
month was our highest
brand share for three
years. We had 20 per cent
of the market.

**WHAT ARE THE
SPICE GIRLS LIKE?**
Very trendy, very
sociable. They're very
down-to-earth people.

**WHICH SPICY IS
YOUR FAVOURITE?**
I love them all!

**WHAT SOLD THE
SCRIPT TO YOU?**
The impact that the
film would have in a
scattered TV market. It
lives and breathes Pepsi.

**WHAT'S THE BEST
AD YOU'VE BOUGHT?**
A ten-second cinema
film for Lynx Temptress
about four years ago.

AND THE WORST?
Paul Gascogne for
Brut. He was totally
wrong for a fragrance.

DAVID McGRAH

Hard sell going soft

Belinda Archer looks at how images of decency can change

A SHAPELY mini-skirted brunete sits in the passenger seat of an MG Midget, thoughtfully caressing the handbrake. The accompanying prose reads: "85 per cent of MG Midget owners are men. That means lots of girls will be relaxing in our new, thick, contoured seats — a scene we're sure will appeal to both driver and passenger."

This reads a press advertisement from the Eighties. Nowadays, the flagrant portrayal of a woman as a sex object would draw the teeth of any advertising watchdog. At the time, however, it would have sailed breezily past the regulators, because the images were totally acceptable to a *Pepsi* audience.

The Advertising Standards Authority, the body charged with monitoring all press and poster advertisements in the UK, is celebrating its 35th anniversary. In that time it has been gauging the sensibilities of the nation, dealing with complaints and ensuring that the industry's self-regulatory code of practice, drawn up in 1961, is fully observed.

This code states that all non-broadcast advertising should neither mislead nor offend and should be "legal, decent, honest and truthful". As the MG advert demonstrates, however, what is judged "decent" has changed quite dramatically since the early Sixties; hence the code has been regularly tweaked to reflect changing social and cultural mores, as well as shifts in consumer desire.

Alcohol is a particularly thorny area where the rules have been tightened. Such a vintage copyline as "Guinness is good for you" would be thrown out now, on the basis that advertisers of alcoholic drinks can no longer make any health claims for their brands, nor can they suggest sexual fulfilment or enhanced sexual capabilities as a result of imbibing alcohol.

Health claims have also been dramatically toned down since the days when adverts were allowed to tout their miracle cures and beautifying potions. It was claimed, for example, that Vigor's Horse Action Saddle — a sort of exercise bicycle — "stimulates the liver, reduces corpulence and cures gout". Any claims must now be backed by clinically-controlled trials.

As new issues and new media emerge, it may prove interesting to observe how the code controlling advertising standards develops. After all, in another 35 years, we could well be hooting with laughter at advertising from the Eighties and Nineties.

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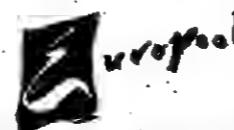
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RAS

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Interviews will held in the UK on the 2-3 September.

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JULY 16

Views are worlds apart

Tomorrow the future of the BBC World Service will be debated at Westminster Central Hall. Here opposing speakers state their views

BBC REVOLUTION

A YEAR ago, the BBC Director-General announced radical plans to restructure the World Service, the standard-setter for quality broadcasting throughout the world. The furor which followed spurred the then Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, into setting up a working group to look into the implications of the proposals.

Last October the group duly reported and agreed 20 measures with the BBC to safeguard the future of the World Service. Today, however, the criticism continues and the BBC annual report for 1996/97 gives a disturbing and very different view of events.

What were the compelling reasons for change? The rationale given was cost and increased efficiency to meet the digital age. But an independent report by PIMS in 1994 found World Service costs to be lower than those of the BBC's domestic services. The working group's concerns were met by a BBC promise to commission a comparative study of costs in November 1996. Has this been published or seen by the Foreign Secretary? The group has not met since October, and I could find nothing about it in the Annual Report.

World Service English news teams have now been moved away from close contact with their foreign language colleagues into the Domestic News and Current Affairs division. There they are responsible to a completely different line management and agenda under Tony Hall, head of news. Staff interchanges are not occurring as planned and there is a danger that the irreplacable collective wisdom and experience of journalists will be lost.

An anecdote illustrates the problem. We recently carried a report purporting to be from overseas. Government spokesman: "Experience led the producer, an old Africa hand, to treat it with suspicion and add a rider that it had not been confirmed. Radio 4 journalists, on the other hand, without the sixth sense, picked up the story and rebroadcast it without the rider and were subsequently proved wrong. It is on that subtle instinct and experience that

Producers think twice about checking every fact

JOCELYN HAY
Chairman of Voice of the Listener and Viewer

On the second Friday of every month, national newspaper editors will be found closeted in their offices poring over the monthly report from the Audit Bureau of Circulations. They are searching for the best gloss to put on their sales performances — the most obvious test of their papers' and their own success or failure in Britain's ruthless newspaper market and the most crucial index used by advertisers deciding where to spend their money.

Success can be measured by whether sales are up or down on the previous month, on the same month of the previous year or for the long-term view, by comparing year-on-year six monthly averages.

Newspapers whose sales are static or falling will ignore the results or use the year-on-year six monthly averages which often offer a better story. Successful papers broadcast the news prominently; readers as well as advertisers are encouraged to know they are part of a success story.

Month on month in June, as the Blair effect which boosted sales in May wore off, only three papers — the *Sunday Mirror*, the *Daily Mail* and *The Express* — increased sales. Year-on-year, as our table shows, there was better news. The sales of nine papers were up compared with June 1996.

Yet any reader studying the papers last weekend would have been puzzled. At the *Daily Mail*, sales had hit a 30-year high but there was "dismal news" for *The Express*, where sales had allegedly fallen by 17,000. Yet at *The Express*, its success story was going from "strength to strength". There was truth in both papers.

The *Daily Mail* is an undoubted hit — sales have been running at more than 2.2 million in July, the highest in recent history under editor

the WS's reputation for quality has been built.

Just as controversial and damaging has been the split between commissioning and production. All the non-news English language production teams have been moved into BBC Broadcast under Ron Neil, who has no experience of international broadcasting. New commissioning editors have been appointed in each area, from drama to education and English language teaching, some with no previous WS experience.

So the ultimate arbiter will be cost, not expertise.

Two illustrations of just how

damaging the internal market

is proving come from new arrangements under which the pronunciation and information units charge other departments for their services.

Producers now think twice about checking every fact and some have been known to visit public libraries rather than ring the BBC's own specialised staff. Others go out and buy CDs because it is cheaper than using the BBC record library. What a waste of time and expertise. Next on the list for revamping is the WS's unique and irreplaceable archive. Our problem is that the only person with the power to call the BBC chief to heel is the Foreign Secretary, and we have always been keen to keep the Government out of BBC affairs. But it may be a risk we have to take if the World Service is to be preserved as an irreplaceable national asset.

Is the Foreign Secretary happy with Bob Phillips's first act when he took responsibility for the World Service? Was to move it into the BBC's commercial arm, BBC Worldwide? What sort of message did this convey to the world?

The Head of the WS syndication department Anthony Pugh summed up the fears of many when he said: "At World Service it was to reach the maximum audience possible throughout the world and now it will be to make the maximum money possible, and the two are quite different in broadcasting terms."

On June 30, listeners on the east coast of the United States woke up to a new world news programme. More than 30 FM stations carried the new 50-minute World Update, aimed at early risers among the

JOCELYN HAY
Chairman of Voice of the Listener and Viewer



The old World Service was about reaching a maximum audience, not making the maximum amount of money

TOMORROW'S WORLD

A NUMBER of commentators have painted a picture of an organisation in some way irreparably damaged by the restructuring of the BBC. That is not a World Service I recognise. I see a broadcaster in good shape to embrace a challenging but exciting future.

The World Service has a global audience of 143 million. But it faces unprecedented competition — not just from other international radio stations, but from media deregulation, satellite television and new digital technology.

Listeners want news and information available when it suits them. To meet this need, the World Service is investigating a second English channel for news and current affairs. Services in other key languages, such as Arabic, will be strengthened, too. The Arabic Service has responded to fierce competition by extending broadcasts by five hours a day.

On June 30, listeners on the east coast of the United States woke up to a new world news programme. More than 30 FM stations carried the new 50-minute World Update, aimed at early risers among the

business, political, government and media communities.

Commissioned by the World Service and made by BBC News, it is the first major programme under the new structure. It has helped to win an audience of 3.5 million in the US, and was made possible only by savings delivered as a result of the BBC's restructuring.

A new short-wave transmitter station in Thailand has improved audibility for many listeners in Asia. The planned replacement of obsolete transmitters in the Gulf will help the World Service remain competitive in a crucial area.

FM is now accounting for a growing slice of radio audiences worldwide. There have been major breakthroughs in gaining FM frequencies in previously inaccessible areas such as the Gulf (in Qatar), the Ivory Coast and in former Zaire, where vital short-wave broadcasts in French and Swahili have been boosted by clear FM reception in Kinshasa and Kisangani. New FM agreements are also being

discussed for Kenya and Rwanda. In Hong Kong, coverage of the handover was reinforced by the World Service's Cantonese Internet site. The World Service will also be making on-line news, programme support and marketing information available on the Internet in Arabic, English, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish. Only joint development with the rest of the BBC will ensure that the World Service will be able to compete.

This applies equally to Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB). The World Service is now taking part in a pilot scheme to offer digital services in major European cities.

The investments required for these areas need not be beyond the resources of the World Service.

The last Government's decision not to cut an additional £5 million from this year's Grant-in-Aid allowed some scope for development.

Restructuring will add further savings to the 10 per cent the World Service

promised to deliver over three years.

SAM YOUNGER

Managing director, World Service

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Tarzan's back in jungle



BOARD meetings at Haymarket Publishing look set to take a livelier turn. The magazine group, which owns publications as diverse as *What Car?* and *Horticultural Week*, has appointed Michael Heseltine as a non-executive director.

Having a former deputy Prime Minister on the team is always guaranteed to keep everyone on their toes. But in this case there is an added element of fun.

The founder and major shareholder in Haymarket Press is one Michael Ray Dibdin Heseltine.

During his years in high office, Hezza was a "sleeping partner" in the company. Now that he has swung back into the publishing jungle, he is insisting that he will still have a back seat role.

At his first board meeting he told his colleagues to carry on as normal and not to mind him. How reassuring. The Listener is sure that it was easy for them to pretend he wasn't there.

Royal diplomacy

AMID all the teeth-grasping over Radio 4's imminent shake-up, at least one traditional feature seems to have been saved from the chop. The station's controller,



Boyle: anthem remains

Scotsman James "McBride" Boyle, has been mulling over whether to end the practice of playing the *National Anthem* on Prince Philip's birthday. Fellow Scots have reportedly been urging him to have the bottle to do it. Most people, they say, don't mind the anthem being played for the Queen, Queen Mother and Prince Charles, but draw the line at the Duke. Boyle, however, has decided not to upset the applecart. "He has been looking closely at it," said a

source "but has decided that it's an area best left well alone."

Mail bonding

EMOTIONAL scenes at the *Daily Mail's* annual bash at Hampton Court, where staff traditionally dare each other to get drunk or even loosen their ties. Lord Rothermere, who prompted much gossip during the general election campaign by nailing his colours to new Labour's mast, kissed and made up with right-wing editor Paul Dacre in a moving speech. Dacre, he eulogised, is the most brilliant editor in Fleet Street and a glittering asset to Associated Newspapers. Partygoers swear they detected the flicker of a smile on the normally dour Dacre's lips.

Cliffhanger
AFTER decades in the role of the Peter Pan of pop, one might think Sir Cliff Richard would be used to a bit of stick from the critics. Not a bit of it. Sir Cliff was almost in tears this week when he attacked the scathing reviews of his show, *Heathcliff*.

"It's so frustrating to do something really good and not have people recognise it", he bleated. "Reviewers don't know anything. They can't do anything themselves, but they criticise us for trying." A spokesman for Sir Cliff explained: "He was irritated by some press reaction to *Heathcliff*. He felt he was not given a fair crack of the whip."

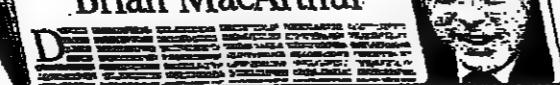
Young at heart

BBC staff, chinned by Director-General John Birt's announcement that further job cuts could be imminent, claim ageism is taking hold of the Corporation. They say any staffer over 50 is an endangered species. Insiders say paranoid staff are beginning to lie about their age. At least two middle-ranking executives who are beginning to go grey are known to have invested in a bottle of hair dye.

Taking the wind out of their sales

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur



Paul Dacre — but it deliberately used the year-on-year six-monthly averages to do down *The Express*, which is experiencing a modest success for the first time in decades. Editor Richard Addis has held sales at more than 1.2 million throughout the first half of the year and his sales were up both month-on-month (by 890) and year-on-year (by 1,700). So he was entitled to his boast. Yet the

claimed that sales had risen by a third over the past year.

The rival claims and counter claims were provoked by the ferocious battle for supremacy between *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* — the toughest and most expensive in British journalism, according to *The Independent* this week — in which *The Times* last week scored a significant victory by forcing the *Telegraph* to separate sales at the full cover price of 45p from subscription and voucher sales and copies given away free by hotels or airlines.

The battle was due to be settled in court until the *Telegraph* conceded that subscription sales — it has been offering the daily and Sunday

papers for £1 a week — should be separately declared.

The result, published for the first time in ABC's June report last Friday, confirmed that the *Telegraph* group, set in panic by the success of *The Times*' Eurostar promotion last autumn, may have managed

mishandled what would be a better description — the most expensive one-year promotion in newspaper history.

Although hundreds of thousands of readers signed up for the £1 a week offer outsiders

believe that up to 80 per cent

were already *Telegraph* readers who seized the opportunity to save £250 a week on a paper they were already

buying.

Telegraph profits — £60

million in 1993, £16 million in 1995 after the papers entered the price war with *The Times*, slumped to £1 million last year.

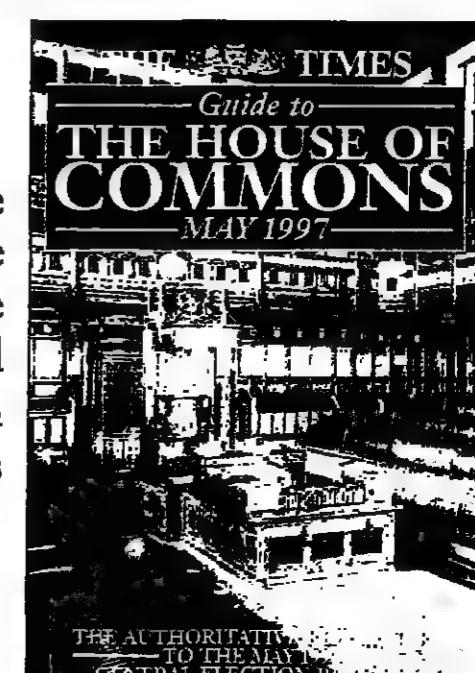
Total sales of *The Daily Telegraph* in June, initiated by the success of the subscription scheme, were £900,515 — but sales at the full cover price of 45p were only £70,295. Similarly total sales of *The Sunday Telegraph* were £85,956 — but at full price only £29,693 (just 6,000 ahead of *The Observer*).

The revelation that more than 300,000 of *The Daily Telegraph's* sales are bought by subscriptions and vouchers is a triumph for *The Times*, which now claims that its sale of 680,494 at the full newsstand price narrows the gap with the *Telegraph* to fewer than 30,000 and pushes it ever closer to achieving its ambition of overtaking its main rival. At full cover price *The Sunday Times* can claim that it outsells all three broadsheet rivals.

Halfway through 1997, other papers that can boast success are *The Guardian*, almost 5 per cent up on a year ago, the *Financial Times*, selling almost 150,000 copies a day overseas, and *The Mail on Sunday*, up 55,000 on a year ago.

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HOW THE NEWSPAPERS COMPARE						
	June 1997	June 1996	% change	Discounted sales	Bulk Sales	Subscription sales

JULY 16

THE TIMES

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS

Pensions inquiry
conveys air of
too little, too late
PAGE 29



HOMES

Hospital buyers
win places
in the Brompton
PAGE 41



SPORT

Montgomerie goes
back to his roots
in pursuit of Open
PAGES 43-48

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

Drinks groups consider splitting LVMH in two



BY DOMINIC WALSH

GUINNESS and Grand Metropolitan, the drinks groups planning a £2 billion merger, are considering a fresh proposal that would give them control over the Hennessy cognac business owned by LVMH, of France.

Senior executives from the three companies met in London yesterday to discuss a proposal that would split LVMH's Moët Hennessy drinks business, in which

Guinness holds a 34 per cent stake into two.

Under the terms put forward by LVMH, Guinness would buy the Hennessy Cognac brand, while LVMH would buy back full control of the Moët Champagne business. In a statement issued after the stock market closed, Guinness and GrandMet confirmed weekend speculation that Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, had held a second meeting last week with his counterparts at Guinness

and GrandMet, Tony Greener and George Bull.

The companies said: "While there were elements of the new proposal which would not be in the best interests of GrandMet and Guinness shareholders in the form proposed, GrandMet and Guinness will assess in full the commercial and financial logic of this new proposal when it is detailed in writing." They added: "It is too early to establish whether any agreement can be reached."

While the valuation put on

Moët Hennessy by M Arnault's latest proposal is considerably too high by the two British groups — to be renamed GMG Brands post-merger — it looks to have brought the two sides closer to a resolution of their dispute.

Ever since the GMG merger was announced in May, M Arnault has played an increasingly rougher game in a bid not to be left out, snapping up a 6.37 per cent stake in GrandMet to add to his existing 14 per cent holding in Guinness.

and Guinness's brewing arm. A source close to M Arnault said the formal proposal being submitted today was unlikely to include details of the alternative scheme splitting Moët Hennessy.

If that is the case, M Arnault is likely to receive short shrift from GMG. A source close to Guinness said yesterday: "Any kind of demerger of any sort would not find favour with Greener and Bull. They want to keep food and brewing with wines and spirits."

OFT urges radical pensions overhaul

BY SARA MCCONNELL

THE Office of Fair Trading called for a radical overhaul of pension provision in Britain yesterday, condemning the present system as expensive and inadequate.

Publishing the findings of a ten-month inquiry, John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said many personal pension plans represented "poor value", with benefits "frequently eroded by the high cost of marketing and fund management".

Company pension schemes based on final salary discriminated against early leavers, Mr Bridgeman said, leaving some employees who moved jobs several times up to 30 per cent worse off. Schemes based on contributions lacked economy of scale and suffered high fund management charges.

The comprehensive OFT report, which extended to three volumes, outlined proposals for a new-style personal pension, the designated personal pension or DPP. Workers not in company schemes would be able to contribute as they do to personal pensions. More controversially, the OFT suggests members of company schemes should be able to compete with their employer to contribute to a DPP instead.

Under the OFT proposals, DPPs would be run collectively, rather than individually, which it said would cut costs. Bodies such as building societies and trade unions as well as insurers should become active pension providers.

Plan-holders would be charged a fixed fee related to the fund value rather than seeing large chunks of their investment used to pay upfront charges.

Pension contributions would be invested in index-tracker funds instead of actively managed funds. The OFT argued that this would eliminate "specious and confusing claims" from salesmen about the superiority of actively managed pension funds. Mr Bridgeman said: "There is little or no evidence that fund managers can deliver above-average performance and every reason to believe that the average consumer would be better off with a passively managed fund."

The OFT also called for

equal annuity rates for men and women and removal of the penalties levied by some providers on people who take their pension funds elsewhere to get a better annuity rate.

But it held back from recommending that people be compelled to contribute to DPPs, it rejected arguments from trade unions and sections of the pensions industry that compulsory contributions were the only way to improve pension provision and were key to cutting marketing costs.

The pensions industry reacted angrily to OFT criticisms of existing personal pensions. Scottish Equitable attacked as "controversial and potentially very misleading" the report's conclusions about marketing, distribution and investment.

Ann Robinson, Director-General of the National Association of Pension Funds, said the report demonstrated a lack of understanding about the benefits of company schemes.

The Government is expected to announce an in-depth review of pensions this week, fleshing out its manifesto commitment to simple, low-cost "stakeholder" pensions to top up basic state benefits.

Too little, too late, page 29

Golden share in BT abandoned

BY GEORGE SIVELL

THE Government yesterday withdrew its golden share in BT in response to a request from the company made just after the May 1 general election.

BT's golden share was created during the 1984 privatisation to protect the company from takeover. Yesterday, however, the Department of Trade and Industry explained that the British telecoms market had become increasingly competitive and that the international market had changed so much that the golden share was no longer necessary.

A 15 per cent limit on outside shareholdings remains in BT company rules but it is now possible to have an overseas

director as BT chairman or chief executive.

DTI officials said the decision to redeem the BT special share had no implications for other special shares.

The Government still has golden shares in National Power, PowerGen, British Energy, Rolls-Royce, British Aerospace, National Grid, Transco, Cable & Wireless, ScottishPower, Scottish Hydro and Northern Ireland Electric.

The scrapping of the BT golden share was seen as a signal that Labour would give BT more commercial freedom.

Merger threat, page 26
Tempus, page 28

Tim Sainsbury sells shares for £4.53m

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SIR TIM SAINSBURY, a non-executive director of J Sainsbury and former Tory MP for Hove, has added to his personal fortune by selling £4.53 million worth of shares in the supermarket group.

He sold 1.05 million shares at 431½p each on Friday, the company disclosed yesterday.

The sale was well-timed, with the shares having enjoyed a strong rise since the end of June, reaching a 12-month high after a prolonged spell of underperformance because of the company's lacklustre showing against Tesco. The shares, which have traded as low as 308p this year, closed at 433p yesterday. The com-

pany said Sir Tim, who as an MP was the richest man in the House of Commons and who will still be left with nearly 4 per cent of the company, had not given a reason for the sale and was not obliged to as the shares came out of a family trust. He was unavailable for comment.

Sir Tim, a former Trade Minister, stood down at the general election. He is a cousin of David Sainsbury, the executive chairman.

Moir Lochhead, chief executive of Firstbus, Britain's largest bus group, has sold a third of his family stake in the group for £2.03 million. He and his wife retain 1 per cent.

Railtrack seeks more power for Horton

BY JASON NISST

RAILTRACK, owner of Britain's privatised rail infrastructure, is planning to change its articles of association to give chairman Sir Robert Horton greater powers over board decisions.

The group will ask its shareholders next week to approve an amendment to the articles that would allow Sir Robert to hold board meetings via a series of telephone calls from the chairman of the meeting.

Pric, the pensions advisory body, has

noted that the articles say a Railtrack board meeting will have a quorum if only two of its 12 board members are present. In addition, Sir Robert, as chairman, has a casting vote on board decisions.

Anne Simpson, managing director of Pric, said: "This means that Sir Robert can phone someone up, say it is a board meeting and we've decided to do so and so." The consultants, which boasts clients managing £130 billion of votes, are recommending voting against the

motion. Railtrack, which has been in conflict with the rail regulator and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the change merely replaces a previous rule that allows board decisions to be made by posting a resolution to the board members and them posting back their votes.

It said this was used only in extreme cases but admitted it had been used twice in the group's 14 months as a public company. "This is an innovation which gives the company extra flexibility and allows it to make decisions quickly," said a spokeswoman.

The company added that Sir Robert was required to call all board members and for them to leave contact numbers if they are out of the country. He was also required to give "reasonable" notice of board meetings. The spokeswoman said: "We do not say what is reasonable, but it would be more than 20 minutes." But Pric notes that Sir Robert has the power to waive the notice of the meeting "retrospectively or in any way he wants".



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Freight boost for P&O

The fire that disrupted services in the Channel Tunnel last November helped P&O to increase business on its cross-channel freight service by 75 per cent in the past three months, according to figures released yesterday.

The absence of competition from Le Shuttle, whose freight service remained closed until May, helped P&O to attract 158,000 units in the first half of the year, against 98,100 last time. Overall passenger levels rose 7 per cent to 2.7 million.

Rock 'n' sold

VCI, the music and video publisher, has bought 1,000 master recordings of rock 'n' roll tracks from Johnny Vincent, an American professional collector, for \$2 million (£1.2 million). Mr Vincent, 66, will take all the money in cash and will remain with the company as a consultant.

Scotia post

Scotia Holdings, the drug development group whose shares have lost more than half their value this year, has appointed Robert Dow as group medical and development director. Dr Dow joins from Roche in Basel, where he is worldwide director of drug development.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia S... 2.38	Bank 2.20	Sab... 2.20
Austria Sch... 22.18	Bank 20.85	Sab... 20.85
Belgium Fr... 65.32	Bank 60.36	Sab... 60.36
Canada D... 2.41	Bank 2.36	Sab... 2.36
Cyprus Cyp... 0.827	Bank 0.856	Sab... 0.856
Denmark Kr... 12.05	Bank 11.17	Sab... 11.17
Finland M... 9.45	Bank 8.70	Sab... 8.70
France F... 10.65	Bank 9.85	Sab... 9.85
Germany Dm... 3.18	Bank 2.93	Sab... 2.93
Greece Dr... 498	Bank 459	Sab... 459
Hong Kong \$... 13.78	Bank 12.56	Sab... 12.56
Iceland Kr... 1.17	Bank 1.08	Sab... 1.08
Ireland P... 8.29	Bank 8.64	Sab... 8.64
Italy Lira... 3.00	Bank 2.80	Sab... 2.80
Japan Yen... 208.41	Bank 190.90	Sab... 190.90
Malta ... 0.688	Bank 0.630	Sab... 0.630
Netherlands Gld... 3.579	Bank 3.284	Sab... 3.284
New Zealand \$... 2.00	Bank 1.88	Sab... 1.88
Norway Kr... 12.22	Bank 12.28	Sab... 12.28
Portugal Esc... 316.53	Bank 294.80	Sab... 294.80
S Africa R... 8.34	Bank 7.79	Sab... 7.79
Spain Peseta... 250.00	Bank 224.00	Sab... 224.00
Sweden Kr... 13.94	Bank 2.41	Sab... 2.41
Turkey Lira... 2.62	Bank 2.07	Sab... 2.07
USA \$... 1.780	Bank 1.777	Sab... 1.777

Notes for small denominations bank rates as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

By ERIC REGULY

ANY attempt by British Telecom to renegotiate the MCI purchase price risks legal retaliation in the American courts that could potentially kill the merger, analysts said yesterday.

Mr Roberts is under pressure from Sir Peter Bonfield,

the BT chief executive who is to go ahead on its original terms in spite of the surprise announcement last week that its local business will incur losses of \$800 (£475 million) this year, more than double the previous estimate. BT agreed last November to pay about

£1 billion for MCI, using a mixture of cash and shares.

Bert Roberts, MCI's chairman and a non-executive director of BT, is expected to give shareholders a fuller account of the losses at BT's annual meeting in Edinburgh today.

If BT insists on dropping the price substantially, MCI could take the matter to court, a costly move that could delay the merger by a year or more and potentially destroy any goodwill between the companies. One analyst said: "If MCI responds with litigation, it would destroy all morale and synergy. BT and MCI are sup-

posed to get along with each other and if they don't, there is no sense in doing the deal."

MCI has no fear of litigation. Founded in the 1960s, the company has made continuous use of the courts to hammer its way into new markets. Gerald Taylor, MCI's chief executive, described MCI in its early years as a "law office with an antenna on the roof".

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BT attempt to cut MCI price will put merger in jeopardy

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

American retail sales stage strong recovery

RETAIL sales in America recovered more strongly than expected in June after three consecutive monthly declines, the Commerce Department reported yesterday, suggesting a potential revival in consumer activity. Total retail sales increased by 0.5 per cent last month, to a seasonally adjusted \$210.3 billion, after a revised 0.3 per cent drop in May. A surprising rise in sales by motor dealers boosted June sales. Excluding new cars, June retail sales were up 0.3 per cent after being flat in May.

Analysts are watching closely for evidence that growth may re-accelerate in the second half, potentially leading the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates to restrain expansion.

Earnings up at US banks

CHASE MANHATTAN and Citicorp, America's two largest banks, reported a rise in second-quarter earnings despite weakness in credit card and consumer banking operations. Chase, which took over the top spot from Citicorp when it acquired Chemical Bank last year, said net income rose to \$925 million (£537.8 million) from \$856 million a year earlier. Citicorp, also based in New York, said earnings rose to \$1 billion in the quarter from \$952 million a year earlier.

Construction exports slip

UK CONSTRUCTION companies secured overseas contracts worth £4.8 billion in 1996, compared to £5.5 billion in 1995, according to provisional figures published by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. About 40 per cent of these were in North America, with a further 20 per cent in the Far East. The value of work completed in 1996 was about £4.7 billion, compared with nearly £4 billion in 1995.

Centrica to supply Dutch

CENTRICA, the supply arm of the former British Gas, has agreed to supply one billion cubic metres of natural gas a year through the UK-Continent Interconnector pipeline to the Elsta power plant in the Netherlands. Deliveries should start in October 1998 when the interconnector, linking Bacton, Norfolk, with Zeebrugge in Belgium, is due to open. It is the first agreement by Centrica to supply a major continental end-user directly and the first export sale of UK gas to a power project.

WH Smith airport deal

WH SMITH, the struggling retail group, has taken the concession to operate five news, book and gift stores in the new Hong Kong airport, due to open in a year's time. Smiths intends to open four branches of Waterstone's and one WH Smith. The concessions will run for five years. Smiths, which is searching for a new chief executive following the resignation of Bill Cockburn, is keen to develop its travel retail business in the US and Far East.

AIM Group improves

AIM GROUP, the railway and aircraft interiors company, increased pre-tax profits to £5.7 million (£3.9 million) in the year to April 30 on turnover of £73.98 million (£67.3 million). Earnings per share were 30.7p (20.3p). The final dividend of 4p (4p) will be paid on October 3, lifting the total to 9p (5.5p). Jeff Smith, chairman, said: "The improving margin trend should ensure that further progress is made... much of the profit falling into the second half of the financial year."

Texas powers ahead

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS ran up powerful second-quarter earnings, boosted by strong revenues for its newest computer chips and higher operating margins. In the three months to end-June net income rose to \$249 million (£14.5 million), or \$1.26 a share, from \$76 million (39 cents a share) in the same period last year. Revenues were up from \$2.4 billion to \$2.56 billion. Semiconductor revenues rose 17 per cent from the same quarter last year, and 10 per cent on the first quarter of 1997.

Cowie chooses successor

COWIE, the transport group, has named Michael Gwilt as an eventual successor to Gordon Hodgson, its chief executive. Mr Gwilt, who has spent his career in sales and marketing, joined the main board in March and will become group managing director in January. The company said that he will "assume progressively the responsibilities of chief executive". The shares were unchanged at 351p yesterday.

CrestCo plans expansion of settlement operations

CRESTCO, the company responsible for Crest, the computerised share settlement system, wants to expand operations into the settlement of gilts, unit trusts and open-ended investment companies (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Iain Saville, chief executive of CrestCo, speaking on the first anniversary of the launch of Crest, said the main competitive threat comes from France, Germany and the US.

The backlog of trades had been halved to 61,000 since the blackspot in April, when volumes brought on by the end of the tax-year, nearly brought the system to a standstill.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CANATXX ENERGY VENTURES LIMITED J.W. GRIMES POWER PLANT DATED 2ND JULY 1997 NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A C.C.G.T. (COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE) POWER STATION ON LAND FORMERLY USED AS AN OIL STORAGE TANK FARM AT RHOSGOCH ON THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY

Notice is hereby given that Canatxx Energy Ventures Limited has applied under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for consent of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to construct and operate a C.C.G.T. Power Station on the site of a former Oil Storage Tank Farm, at Rhosgoch on the Isle of Anglesey together with a direction under 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

The C.C.G.T. Power Station will have a generating capacity of up to 880MW. A copy of the application environmental statement and location plan, defining the land which the application relates, are available for inspection during normal working hours at the Planning Department, Anglesey County Council Offices, Llangefni, LL59 5TW and Anglesey Library, Llanfaes, Anglesey, LL59 5TT.

Additional copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained, while stocks last, at a cost of 15p per copy including postage from:

Canatxx Energy Ventures Limited, Hillhouse International
Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 4QD

Those wishing to make objections to the application are requested to write to the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry, Electricity Directorate, Victoria Street, London SW1H 9ET.

Please state the name of the proposed Power Plant and grounds for the objection, not later than 15th August 1997. It is requested that a copy of such objection is sent to Mr Dennis J. Volter, Canatxx Energy Ventures Limited, ICI Hillhouse International, P.O. Box 4, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 4QD.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 003126 of 1997

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a meeting will be held on the 25th July 1997 at 10.00 a.m. for the reduction of the registered share capital of the above-named company.

A copy of the said Notice will be available for inspection at the offices of the Company, 100 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AA.

The notice is given by virtue of the provisions of section 112 of the Companies Act 1985.

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JULY 16 1997

Why is it that once a company hits problems it changes its name? Control Securities became Ascot Holdings, Saachi & Saachi became Cordiam, and Cray Electronics became Amite. But changing the company's name does not seem to dim Amite's ability to lose shareholders' money while lining its directors' pockets. However, it may explain why the Stock Exchange has not been able to make any progress with its investigation into the group's misleading interim results published in January 1995. Maybe the investigators are taking some time to digest the change of name.

Of the trio who "saved" Cray in the early 1990s, Sir Peter Michael walked away with £12.6 million worth of shares. Roger Holland bought a Cray subsidiary with assets of £15.5 million for just £1, and Jon Richards is receiving a payoff that could total £640,000.

Mr Richards, who *The Times* revealed had magically presented a £1 million loss as a £7.8 million profit, has already picked up £267,000 in cash and a £6,000 pension payment. If he does not receive a remunerative post by next March he picks up another £134,000 and will get an additional £134,000 if he is still out of work come September 1998. This is hardly an incentive

to rush down to the job centre in his Aston Martin DB7. The money already paid out to Mr Richards probably cannot be recovered. But Amite shareholder should force the company to stop these further payments immediately. Never mind his economy with the truth. This is the man who presided over a meltdown in Amite profits and shares, with the group making a £19.2 million loss in 1995-96 and a £50.4 million loss last year. Mr Richards was handsomely rewarded when the group was apparently doing well. Should he be rewarded for it doing badly?

Evidence is now emerging that Amite was never doing that well in the good times anyway. Yesterday, it wrote off £34 million to cover its property problems, which apparently dated back to the late 1980s and were bubbling under the surface during the Michael/Holland/Richards era. It also lost £26 million on businesses recently sold and revealed it was changing an interesting accounting policy. This allowed it to take nearly a quarter of the profit from computer service contracts, which

often last for at least a year, in the first month of the deal. Even this cannot explain how a £1 million loss was presented as a £7.8 million profit.

The Cray/Amite story stinks. The Stock Exchange must get to grips with the accusations that the group misled shareholders, or pass the papers to someone who might. The DTI perhaps?

Tarnished EMU remains on track

Wishful thinking has dominated the EMU debate in this country over the past few months. Commentators and politicians are now broadly united in their scepticism towards the single currency — with even the previously pro-EMU CBI expected to reveal next week a cooling of

its European ardour. But there is a danger that British observers have confused a desire to see the project fail with the reality that EMU has lost some of its shine but remains tentatively on track.

Traders in the European markets, though, are convinced the project will not collapse unless

Kohl says so. The J.P. Morgan EMU calculator, which measures market expectations, shows the market all but convinced that a broad euro will go ahead on time. But while the focus remains on the political difficulties surrounding the start of the project there has been little examination of the tensions that will result from the creation of a broad and soft euro. In particular, the market's current vision of the single currency seems certain to set the Bundesbank-style European Central Bank on a collision course with the "Club

Med" members of EMU. On paper the ECB looks watertight. A specific commitment to price stability has been enshrined in its constitution, while it has also been excluded from granting credit to governments or any European institutions to plug budget holes.

But the Bundesbank derives its real strength from its reputation rather than its constitution. It has taken a long time to build a sufficient power base with which to challenge the might of the German Government. The ECB, however, could find itself in conflict with European Governments before it has time to establish its own credentials. As a timely paper from UBS points out, the ECB faces three immediate fault lines when trying to marry its task of fixing price stability with exchange rate, unemployment and fiscal policy

across the euro area. It would be premature to assume a soft euro is doomed, but the market's reaction to a clash between the ECB and the Club Med governments will quickly make recent squabbles over deficit criteria seem like Euro-harmony.

EU clogs up the waterworks

Water companies should be able to wipe the political slate clean after paying the lion's share of the windfall tax and satisfying John Prescott over leak control at his water summit. But tensions are already building up over the new water price review.

The Ofwat National Consumer Council has issued a warning about extra EU directives being promoted in Brussels. These could raise average household bills by a further £21 a year, partly because expensive work already done would no longer pass muster.

Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services, is determined to avoid what followed his last price

review. His gradualist approach to bringing down returns on assets allowed the City to demand large cash handouts in year one, albeit most were surrendered by relief for customers. This time, he wants to app power regulators and demand a significant up-front price cut.

The trouble is that, in water, this would be followed by real annual price increases, probably even without extra EU imposts. Customers trying to juggle their bills are unlikely to appreciate such efforts. They deserve a freeze on charges. The trend away from high and volatile inflation allows this. Prices are already high enough to accommodate a good rate of investment on improvements. Spending should be kept within these means, if necessary by shuffling priorities.

OFT repeated

WHAT happens to the usually forthright John Bridgeman when confronted with the City? The Director-General of Fair Trading keeps giving underwriters another chance to sort out the cost of raising money. Now, when faced with high charges by pension providers, he reckons competition will sort this out. But there are nearly 200 life companies and if the market was so efficient everyone would have a pension with Equitable Life.

Talks are off at loss-hit Kenwood

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

KENWOOD, the struggling household appliances group, revealed it plunged into loss last year and said talks with its smaller rival Pifco, which has been stalking it for months, have ended.

Colin Gordon, Kenwood's new chief executive, said the board had looked at proposals made by Pifco and decided they would not lead to a satisfactory offer. The proposals were not put to shareholders. Pifco declined to comment.

Kenwood incurred a loss of £11.4 million in the year to April 4 after taking an exceptional reorganisation charge of £15.5 million. A year earlier, it made a profit of £15.6 million. The company will not be paying a final dividend, so the total for the year will be 3.25p (10p).

Mr Gordon said that profits in the first half of the current year are likely to be lower than last year because of difficult trading conditions and the strong pound. If current exchange rates prevail for the whole year profits will be knocked by £4 million, he said.

Mr Gordon was appointed after Tim Beech, his predecessor, left after a shareholder revolt earlier this year. UK Active Value built up a 9 per cent stake and then forced a vote, which it lost, on whether the company should be put up for sale.

The company cut 416 jobs last year. It is reviewing all its operations and will decide at the end of this year whether more jobs will go. Mizshi, its Italian air conditioning business, has performed poorly again and the company is keen to sell it.

Operating margins across the group declined from 9.3 per cent to 4.3 per cent last year. Mr Gordon said that the business had been wrong to focus on increasing turnover rather than maintain or improve margins and his main objective is to "substantially improve" margins in the next few months.

Tempus, page 28

SBC agrees link-up with Japanese bank

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SWISS Bank Corporation has agreed a wide-ranging strategic link with Japan's most prominent wholesale bank to prepare both for Tokyo's planned "Big Bang" financial deregulation, scheduled for the turn of the century.

SCB and the Long Term Credit Bank of Japan have agreed three 50:50 joint ventures to be cemented by group financial links. SCB will also inject cash into LTCB, which is suffering one of the worst bad-debt problems of any leading Japanese bank, to improve its capital ratios.

The most significant new venture will bring together the Tokyo securities and corporate finance business of SCB Warburg and LTCB's smaller, mainly debt-related business. The new investment bank would aim to expand from an existing base of 700 employ-

ees, most of whom would come from SCB Warburg.

A letter of intent signed yesterday includes plans to forge a new Tokyo-based fund management business based on SBC Brinson, the Swiss bank's international investment business, and LTCB's domestic pension fund management operations. Brinson manages about £75 billion, much of it in equities, while LTCB controls about £5.5 billion, mostly in debt.

Katsuhiro Onogi, LTCB's president, called the alliance "the perfect response to the opportunities presented by the Big Bang". The two banks will also offer private banking for wealthy people. The Swiss bank operates private banking extensively round the world but it is claimed to be a new phenomenon in Japan.

Each parent group will take



Hans de Gier: "client-focused"

a 3 per cent stake in the other. In LTCB's case, this will be in new shares. SCB, which has a strong capital base, will subscribe about £365 million in new LTCB preference shares as part of a £1.1 billion capital raising aimed to restore the

Japanese group's balance sheet. Although the capital injection will give LTCB high capital ratios, it is likely to be used to allow it to write off bad and doubtful debts.

Warburg and Morgan Stanley's mutual desire to strengthen their Far East operations was one motive for their aborted merger. The subsequent takeover of Warburg by SCB did little to boost Far East operations. The LTCB tie-up, which raises money in wholesale markets for long-term industrial loans, will add a leading Japanese financial name and a fine list of potential blue-chip Japanese customers.

Hans de Gier, executive chairman of SBC Warburg, said: "We will be home to the most creative, dynamic and client-focused team in Japan and beyond". SCB Warburg gains business immediately by acting for LTCB in its capital-raising.

Northern Electric hit by bid costs

BY PAUL DURMAN

NORTHERN ELECTRIC spent £10 million in its failed attempt to thwart CalEnergy, the US company that gained control of the regional electricity company last year after a bitter bid battle (Christine Buckley writes).

The bid costs and the impact of the distribution price review helped to cut pre-tax profits at the company 31 per cent to £103 million in the year to the end of March.

Northern was not obliged to publish its figures but did so for its preference shareholders. The amount of electricity it distributed rose 1.4 per cent in the year, while turnover increased 5.7 per cent.

Northern still has to decide how it will pay its £1.18 million windfall tax. The company was highly geared at 125 per cent before CalEnergy bought the business. CalEnergy bought the company because of its own gearing arrangements in the US after it emerged that its debt was junk rated.

Property cover sends Anite £50.4m into red

BY PAUL DURMAN

ANITE, the computer networks and software group that paraded company with its chief executive in March, has slumped to a £50.4 million loss after making a £32.2 million provision to cover the cost of dealing with 34 unwanted properties.

The full-year results also show Anite has set aside £640,000 to pay compensation to Jon Richards, its former chief executive. Mr Richards has already received £323,000 and will receive the balance in two tranches, if he does not secure a job paying £208,000 a year by September next year.

Mr Richards left Anite, formerly known as Cray Electronics, in the wake of reports in *The Times* that showed senior management was aware of serious trading difficulties at least five months before it issued a shock profits warning in April 1995. The Stock Exchange has reopened its inquiry into this matter, though Alec Daly, Anite's chairman, yesterday declined to comment on the progress of the investigation.

Mr Daly said: "There are no major issues within this company that we have not exposed and we are now looking forward. The group has been transformed. We do now have two divisions which are profitable, cash generative and growing."

Last year increased profits of £6.9 million (£5.2 million) from the continuing software and network integration businesses were wiped out by the £26.3 million loss Anite suffered on its Case Technology manufacturing businesses, which were sold in February.

Commentary, this page

Inn Business calls time on buying and goes for growth

BY DOMINIC WALSH



Alan Jackson reported pre-tax profit of £2.92 million

INN Business Group, the pub operator nursed back to health by Alan Jackson, the former Whitbread executive, has called time on acquisitions after a hectic two years of take-over activity.

Since reversing Inn Business into debt-ridden United Breweries in April 1995, Mr Jackson has spent £55 million on acquisitions, the biggest being the £30 million purchase in November of Sycamore Taverns.

But yesterday Mr Jackson said the focus was now firmly on organic growth. "Obviously if somebody came along with a super earnings-enhancing deal we'd look at it."

The company has about 500 tenanted pubs and 27 managed houses. It plans to expand the managed division to about 75 pubs. The recently acquired Hooches food-led concept is to be developed from eight outlets to at least 30.

Mr Jackson outlined his strategy as he reported pre-tax profit up from £36.6 million to £2.92 million in the half year to May 31. Turnover rose from £5.59 million to £15.46 million. Earnings per share jumped from 9.7p to 3.19p, and the dividend, due on October 15, is 13.6 per cent higher at 0.625p.

the station, and is expected to go into operation next year.

Rolls-Royce is building a 100 megawatt station and supply power under an initial 15-year contract, currently looking for a 50:50 joint venture partner.

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contract hire for just £169 a month including maintenance. Call 0800 456 466 for details.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Brokers help to fuel another record rise

CITY brokers have been busily sharpening their pencils ahead of the forthcoming bank interim dividend reporting season. Their collective findings fuelled further impressive gains that helped to drive the equity market to another closing high.

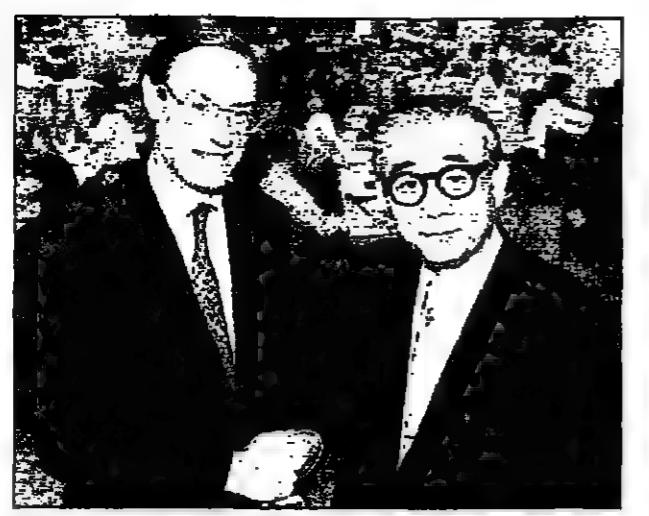
Hopes are high. Strong earnings and dividend growth will be a feature of this season's results and this was reflected in share prices. Barclays put on 13½ p at £12.52½. HSBC, 85p at a new peak of £20.80p, Lloyds TSB 22½ p at 69½ p, Royal Bank of Scotland 24p at 63p, and Standard Chartered 26½ p at £10.00.

But NatWest fell 5½ p to 85p after cautious comments from several brokers. In a major review of the banking sector, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has reiterated its "sell" recommendation on NatWest, while SBC Warburg has downgraded from a "buy" to a "hold". Warburg says fair value is 820p.

Top of KleinWorl's shopping list is HSB, which it says is a "buy" up to the E24 level. It also rates Lloyds TSB a "buy" up to 830p and has upgraded Barclays and Standard from a "hold" to "add". Halifax, unchanged at 756p, is reduced from a "hold" to "reduce". Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, is also positive on HSB, forecasting a price of £22 short-term.

The latest survey from the British Retail Consortium failed to reflect growing inflationary pressures and provided a firm start for trading generally. Another bout of selective support among blue chips sent prices racing sharply to briefly breach the 4,900 level. As a result, London shrugged off an opening deficit on Wall Street. The FTSE 100 Index closed 41.9 up at a new high of 4,899.3. The FTSE 350 closed just 10.9 better at 2,344.9. Total turnover reached 939 million shares.

The drug companies continued to stretch this week's gains with the help of results from overseas companies such as Roche and Johnson & Johnson. Zeneca ended 39½ p dearer at £21.98, while Glaxo Wellcome put on 8½ p at £13.85. ICI also edged 8p higher at 888p after this week's £2 billion sale of its bulk chemical business and there was demand elsewhere in the sector for BOC Group, up 20p to £10.62½ p, Ellis & Everard, 10p to 250p, and Croda International, 17p to



Phillip Stephens, of UBS, left, and Masayoshi Hanabusa, of Hitachi Credit (UK), which made its debut yesterday

27½ p. Laporte, 25½ p to 631½ p, and BTP, 14½ p to 270p.

BT was again on the slide, retreating 4p to 452½ p ahead of today's annual meeting.

The directors will probably be pressed on last week's surprise profits warning from MCI. Its proposed merger partner in the US. Shareholders will no doubt want to know why BT had no idea about the problems and whether the merger

will now proceed. Scottish & Newcastle rose 24p to 752p with the help of a recommendation from Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, while Whitbread put on 21½ p at 850p. The shares were changing hands at 760p the day after the Budget. Grand Metropolitan fell 8½ p to 606p and Guinness a similar amount to 666p anxiously awaiting terms from Bernard Arnault.

Hitachi Credit (UK) made an encouraging start in first-time trading after a placing by UBS, the broker, at 135p. The shares started at 142½ p before closing at 144½ p.

Biocompatibles eased 3p to 12.16½ p, but whispers around the Square Mile claim Johnson & Johnson is poised to make an offer. At these levels Biocompatibles is valued at almost £900 million.

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Cairn Energy, up 16½ p at 54½ p, is linking with Shell, down 4½ p at 424p to jointly bid for further new blocks in Bangladesh. Shell is also paying Cairn \$130 million (£77.5 million) for a half stake in it existing field.

■ GILT-EDGED: Prices drifted lower again for much of the day although support at the lower levels enabled London to outperform its main European rivals. Worries about a further tightening of German monetary policy and a possible rise in interest rates were offset by mild US retail sales and the British Retail Consortium survey.

The Bank of England has decided to offer £2 billion of Treasury 8 per cent 2021 in next week's auction.

The September series of the Long Gilts finished £116 cheaper at £114½ as a total of 78,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was three ticks lighter at £107.16, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished all-square at £102.716.

■ NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average slipped to negative ground in early trading. At midday the index was down 29.03 points at 7,893.95.

THE building society windfalls are starting to find their way into the tails of the big high street retailers, according to the latest British Retail Consortium survey.

But shopkeepers are worried by the impact of persistent rises in interest rates. They say they have been unable to pass on price rises to customers and this has dampened down inflation.

The pick-up for retailers was reflected in many of yesterday's moves, with Dixons Group up 23½ p at 583½ p and MFI Furniture 3p firmer at 136p after

receiving an additional boost from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, which continues to rate the shares a "buy". Others to go better included Argos, 15p to 622½ p; Kingfisher, 18½ p to 733½ p; Boots, 21½ p to 809p; UNO, 20p to 295p; and WH Smith, 15½ p to 364p.

Brokers say there has been pent-up demand for selective retailers because of the recovery in the housing market, which has now begun to filter through to durable goods.

"Good news flows have been underpinning sentiment," said one broker.

The drug companies continued to stretch this week's gains with the help of results from overseas companies such as Roche and Johnson & Johnson. Zeneca ended 39½ p dearer at £21.98, while Glaxo Wellcome put on 8½ p at £13.85. ICI also edged 8p higher at 888p after this week's £2 billion sale of its bulk chemical business and there was demand elsewhere in the sector for BOC Group, up 20p to £10.62½ p, Ellis & Everard, 10p to 250p, and Croda International, 17p to

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Cairn Energy, up 16½ p at 54½ p, is linking with Shell, down 4½ p at 424p to jointly bid for further new blocks in Bangladesh. Shell is also paying Cairn \$130 million (£77.5 million) for a half stake in it existing field.

■ GILT-EDGED: Prices drifted lower again for much of the day although support at the lower levels enabled London to outperform its main European rivals. Worries about a further tightening of German monetary policy and a possible rise in interest rates were offset by mild US retail sales and the British Retail Consortium survey.

The Bank of England has decided to offer £2 billion of Treasury 8 per cent 2021 in next week's auction.

THE building society windfalls are starting to find their way into the tails of the big high street retailers, according to the latest British Retail Consortium survey.

But shopkeepers are worried by the impact of persistent rises in interest rates. They say they have been unable to pass on price rises to customers and this has dampened down inflation.

The pick-up for retailers was reflected in many of yesterday's moves, with Dixons Group up 23½ p at 583½ p and MFI Furniture 3p firmer at 136p after

receiving an additional boost from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, which continues to rate the shares a "buy". Others to go better included Argos, 15p to 622½ p; Kingfisher, 18½ p to 733½ p; Boots, 21½ p to 809p; UNO, 20p to 295p; and WH Smith, 15½ p to 364p.

Brokers say there has been pent-up demand for selective retailers because of the recovery in the housing market, which has now begun to filter through to durable goods.

"Good news flows have been underpinning sentiment," said one broker.

The drug companies continued to stretch this week's gains with the help of results from overseas companies such as Roche and Johnson & Johnson. Zeneca ended 39½ p dearer at £21.98, while Glaxo Wellcome put on 8½ p at £13.85. ICI also edged 8p higher at 888p after this week's £2 billion sale of its bulk chemical business and there was demand elsewhere in the sector for BOC Group, up 20p to £10.62½ p, Ellis & Everard, 10p to 250p, and Croda International, 17p to

27½ p. Laporte, 25½ p to 631½ p, and BTP, 14½ p to 270p.

BT was again on the slide, retreating 4p to 452½ p ahead of today's annual meeting.

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Just in time

NOTICE OF FAIR TRADING INQUIRY INTO PENSIONS

Simple, low-cost, flexible DPP plan creates sensation of too little, too late

Caroline Merrell
on an imperfect
response to the
so-called greatest
financial scandal
of this century'

The phrase 'too little, too late' immediately comes to mind when reading the 511-page, three-volume report from the Office of Fair Trading.

Its analysis of the pensions market comes up with three conclusions that the Government and the life insurance industry have acknowledged for at least the past decade. However, the OFT spared the life insurance industry, the brunt of the blame for the chaotic state of pensions, unlike Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

Instead, using curious algebraic formulae, the report concludes that the public finds pensions too complicated to understand. It reveals, not for the first time, that many pensions carry exorbitant charges, and it points out that the products themselves are too inflexible. Their structure means that those who change jobs frequently, or women who take a career break to have a family, are severely disadvantaged. The report said that a worker who moved several times can find his or her pension up to 30 per cent lower than someone who stayed in the same scheme.

The OFT also attacked the pensions fund-management industry for failing to produce investment returns that were better than an investment in a tracking fund. The lucrative returns for those with the fund management industry were graphically illustrated last year when Nicola Horlick, in charge of pensions at Morgan Grenfell, was suspended in a row about positioning. Ms Horlick's entire pay package was estimated at more than £1 million. Her lucrative pay and pension deal contrasts sharply with the 90 per cent of people who retire on less than the maximum pension of two-thirds of final salary allowed by the Inland Revenue.

The contrast is even more marked when the average wage of around £18,000 is taken into account. What is more alarming is that 60 per cent of men, traditionally still the breadwinner, make less than this average, and one in four make no extra pension provision whatsoever.

To widen the appeal of pensions to the mass market, the report suggests the encouragement of simple, flexible, low-cost pensions based on index-tracking techniques. However, it holds back from suggesting that contributing to a pension scheme should be mandatory.

Later this week, the Government will announce a review of pensions, which is expected to take on board some of



Nicola Horlick's pay and pension deal was more than £1 million



Helen Liddell placed the blame firmly on the pensions industry



John Bridgeman saw the cause of the chaos in more complicated terms

findings of the Office of Fair Trading. It faces a fundamental dilemma — can it erode the pensions of the nation to the companies that, it feels, have presided over the greatest financial scandal of this century?

Just under a decade ago, in reaction to demographic trends that continue to threaten to destabilise state pension provision, the then Conservative Government decided to introduce personal pensions.

An ageing population means that those not covered by company schemes could no longer rely on the state to provide adequate cover at retirement. For example, over the next couple of decades the value of the basic pension will fall — as a percentage of average earnings — to half what it is today.

The life insurance companies saw the handing over of pensions provisions to the private sector as a golden

opportunity to relieve the public to the tune of £4 billion. Life insurance salesmen, earning hundreds of thousands of pounds in commission, encouraged miners, nurses and other public-sector workers to leave schemes with guaranteed benefits to take out plans where the charges in some cases meant that none of the policyholders' contributions were invested for up to four years.

In spite of the tremendous

criticism from consumer bodies and the Government, the industry has failed to take the problem seriously, blaming compensation delays on administrative problems. Around 500,000 of the seven million people with personal pensions are believed to be affected by this problem. Some believe that the figure could be even higher.

The 20 million or so employees who have company schemes have not been im-

mune to scandal either. Six years ago Robert Maxwell, the media tycoon, felt it within his powers to help himself to around £400 million of pension money to try to prop up his ailing empire. In the aftermath, the Government introduced tougher rules governing pension scheme assets, the costs of which are pushing more companies to scrap the guaranteed benefits offered by some pensions. Instead, the pensions of millions of em-

ployees will now be based on contributions — in a similar way to personal pensions.

The Government is not immune to criticism in its handling of pensions. In what was described as a multibillion-pound raid in the last Budget, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, scrapped tax relief on pension fund dividends, raising around £5 billion a year. The cost to those in company schemes is expected to be around £100 annually, while those with personal pensions could be looking at a cut of around 15 per cent in total returns.

The National Association of Pensions Funds (NAPF) believes that the change could cost a total of £75 billion. However, others claim that it will just result in a different valuation basis for company pension schemes. Changes to the investment strategies of pensions will further limit the impact.

Employees save tax-free in 401(k) plans, which take their name from a section of the US tax code. They are comparable to UK money-purchase company schemes but differ in many important aspects, including investment choice. Employers match their workers' contributions up to a certain level but do not guarantee the benefits payable, so reducing their expenditure. At larger companies, 401(k) plans will often supplement defined benefit schemes, with guaranteed payouts.

Employees changing jobs can take their pensions to a new company. They will also soon be enjoying extra protection from plundering bosses in legislation planned by the Clinton Administration. Employees can choose between a range of bond, index and equity funds.

The explosive growth of the 401(k) has proved a boon not only for the mutual funds industry (the US equivalent of the unit trust sector), but also for the stock market. The regular flow of funds into 401(k) plans has powered the upsurge of the Dow Jones Industrial average.

However, some 401(k) plan holders fight shy of equities, one drawback of the system. Jessica Mann, of the global asset team at Watson Wyatt, the actuaries, explains: "There are 30-year-olds with half of their money in cash and bonds, as they do not see that the highest growth long term will come from equities."

Some believe the simplicity of the 401(k), which has encouraged Americans to increase their retirement savings, make it the pension paradigm Britain should copy. Others say the cost of the changeover would be prohibitive.



Clinton: pension legislation

Man and machine battle for supremacy

Martin Waller on whether index-tracking fund management is better than the personal touch

The battle is between man and machine; the outcome could mean the loss of thousands of highly paid jobs. The argument is between active and passive fund management. For years, the men and women who have charge of the nation's pensions have adopted an active role and rewarded themselves handsomely for the risks they have taken with other people's money.

This means scrutinising every single share

that makes up their individual funds. Rigorous analysis, using research techniques evolved in the higher branches of mathematics, are used.

They show, in excruciating detail, why such and such a share should be bought or sold.

In addition, there is the personal touch. Fund managers are on first-name terms with executives at the companies whose shares they hold. Information passes to the market, sometimes in ways that skirt the insider trading laws.

So managers actively trade the shares in their portfolios, selling this stock on a profit warning, buying that on an upgrade of this year's profit forecast. It is an expensive approach. The skills required drive salaries

high — Nicola Horlick, the £1 million-a-year "superwoman" at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, was not exceptional. There are also the endless dealing costs.

In recent years a more passive approach has gained ground. Why not just buy a selection of all the stocks on the market, spreading the risk of individual share price collapses but gaining from the market's apparently unstoppable rise? A simple computer program will ensure a representative holding of, for example, the FTSE 100 index or any other index. The fund merely tracks the market.

The advantages are cost and, possibly, a more even return over a number of years. Those six-figure salaries need not be paid and there are fewer dealing costs. And individual fund managers have good years and bad ones.

The decision by PPFM, a typical active fund, to scale down equity holdings in favour of cash

in 1995 has made the fund manager one of the top performers since then.

There are more sophisticated forms of passive fund management. So-called quantitative management uses a number of different measures to decide in which shares to invest. But this is still an objective process, the computer programs themselves throwing up the chosen investments, rather than a subjective one of individual stock-picking.

In 1995, according to the National Association of Pension Funds, a fifth of all pension schemes used indexed methods, at least in part. The figure for the public sector, which prefers a secured, safe return, is a third. The unanswered question is whether tracker funds outperform actively managed funds over a long period. Active funds have certainly performed best over the past couple of years, in

part for technical reasons to do with the number of partial stock market flotations, which disadvantage the trackers.

Paul Klumpes, of Lancaster University, in a paper for the OFT, admits that the evidence is contradictory. But he says the main arguments "imply that it will be difficult for active investment managers to consistently outperform passive funds, especially when the effects of fees and transaction costs are accounted for".

Passive analysis has plenty of critics in the City. Aside from the potential job losses, there is dispute over the notion of turning over fund management to impersonal "black boxes". The 1987 stock market crash was made more vertiginous by the number of computerised trading systems on Wall Street that were hard to turn off once they had started to sell.

The head of one City investment house, which had long shunned the shares of a particular company but had just bought a parcel of stock, was then phoned by its chief executive, who congratulated him on his decision to start investing again. "Nothing to do with human intelligence, old boy — it was only the black box," he replied.

Flame flickers

THE ghost of Howard Hodgson still hovers over Ronson, the lighter manufacturer he was thrown out of six weeks ago. He is refusing to speak to me, but I hear he has approached an offshore fund that holds almost 18 per cent of the company and offered to buy the stake at twice the market price, in order to call an extraordinary meeting to have his tormentors thrown out in their turn...

The stake is held by Albion Consolidated. He received a dusty reply. The ever-optimistic Hodgson had the backing of a big Hong Kong concern.



"It's Albert Einstein. Can someone explain his pension policy to him again?"



Trading's three-volume study into the subject decided that pension products have been marketed in an "unnecessarily complex way" which has confused the simple consumer. Absolutely. To make things easier, I have reproduced a section of the report dealing with the loss caused by frequent job changes:

$$PLDP = \sum_{k=1}^n M(t_k) (t_k - t_{k-1})$$

Any questions? No, I didn't think there would be.

Clear as mud

EVERYTHING you always wanted to know about pensions but were too befuddled to ask. The Office of Fair

Sir Harry Solomon of Hillesdon fame and carpet king Lord Harris of Peckham, has knocked together a handsome leaving present. He is picking up £1.3 million on the way out of the door. Half is for shrinking his former five-year contract back to two years; this cash has already been paid. The rest is a payoff for ending that contract but agreeing to stick around as a non-executive director.

• **MIKE GREENLEES**, the head of GGI Group, is worried about how the City perceives his company. Well, for a start the City is worried about how its' expensive purchase, BDDP, is doing. Linda Kaplan-Thaler, the creative director of the New York arm of BDDP, and a big cheese there, is leaving. Known for her work on Toys 'R' Us, Compaq and Foot Locker, she wants to spend "more time with her family". You can buy them, but you can't keep them.

Deep pile NICHOLAS JEFFREY, who is "retiring" as executive deputy chairman of H&C Furnishings, the furniture business that last year brought together

BOB AYLING, of BA, on how he copes with the pressure of being Britain's most hated boss. "I wake up in the morning thinking I had better get a cup of tea for my wife. That's my first job. Then I think about whether the children have eaten all the fruit, and whether there's any left for me."

"And then I think about Farming Today — I've learned more about farming in Britain over the last 10 years than I ever knew before. And then I start thinking about what the day's got in store. And then I start thinking about getting to work."

MARTIN WALLER



Lord Harris of Peckham: £1.3 million parting shot for H&C deputy chairman

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

CLASSIC VISA CARD/MASTERCARD®, AFFINITY MASTERCARD, UNITY FIRST MASTERCARD AND GLOBAL VISA CARD.

Bank of Scotland announces a change in the monthly rate of interest charged to our Classic Visa Card/MasterCard, Affinity MasterCard, Unity First MasterCard and Global Visa Card Cardholders.

The monthly rate will be increased to 1.53%.

Interest will be charged at the new rate and shown on cardholders' statements issued from 22nd August, 1997, and for balances left outstanding from statements dated 23rd July, 1997 and after.



Bank of Scotland, Card Services, Dunfermline, Fife KY9 4BS.

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Sec	Day	+	-	1/4	1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 3/4	2	Sec	Day	+	-	1/4	1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 3/4	2	Sec	Day	+	-	1/4	1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 3/4	2
For All New Units																																			
AXA EQUALITY & LAW UNIT TRUST INC	01203 553 221												Pacific Portfolio	153.20	155.20	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
AXA Life Inc	794.40	845.20	+ 0.00	0.25	0.25								USA Equity	153.20	155.20	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
General Inv	100.00	100.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								UK Equity & Bd	153.20	155.20	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
US Growth Inv	150.00	150.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								US Small Cap	151.00	155.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
Higher Inv Inc	151.00	174.00	+ 0.15	0.20	0.20								Income & Cons	152.00	157.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
Global Inv Inc	150.00	150.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								Small Stocks	151.00	155.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
Globe Inv Inc	220.00	220.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								Mid Stocks	152.00	155.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
Global Inv Inc	150.00	150.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								Large Stocks	153.00	155.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
Global Inv Inc	150.00	150.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								High Income	150.00	155.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
Global Inv Inc	150.00	150.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								Ex Div Stocks	150.00	155.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
Global Inv Inc	150.00	150.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								Small Bonds	150.00	155.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
Global Inv Inc	150.00	150.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								Corporate Bonds	150.00	155.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
Global Inv Inc	150.00	150.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								High Income Bonds	150.00	155.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
Global Inv Inc	150.00	150.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00								Long Term Govt	150.00	155.00	+ 0.10	0.15	0.20																	
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1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
BANKS						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
BREWERIES, PUBS & RESTAURANTS						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
ELECTRICITY						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
HOUSEHOLD GOODS						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
INSURANCE						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
CHEMICALS						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
DISTRIBUTORS						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
BANKS						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg.	Vol.	PE
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Prices continue to be squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Figures in bold type indicate stocks with positive price movements.

Figures in italics indicate stocks with negative price movements.

Figures in parentheses indicate stocks with no price movement.

Figures in red indicate stocks with a yield.

Figures in blue indicate stocks with a P/E ratio.

Figures in green indicate stocks with a dividend.

Figures in orange indicate stocks with a high P/E ratio.

Figures in yellow indicate stocks with a low P/E ratio.

Figures in grey indicate stocks with a high yield.

Figures in black indicate stocks with a low yield.

Figures in purple indicate stocks with a medium yield.

Figures in pink indicate stocks with a medium P/E ratio.

Figures in brown indicate stocks with a medium yield and P/E ratio.

Figures in light blue indicate stocks with a medium yield and P/E ratio.

Figures in light green indicate stocks with a medium yield and P/E ratio.

Figures in light orange indicate stocks with a medium yield and P/E ratio.

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Master of the maverick class

Are the Proms as lively as they were? It shouldn't take long to answer that perennial question this season. For after the profundity of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* on the First Night (this Friday), and the resurrection of a hardly-known Schubert opera about the Crusades to excite the classical anoraks on Saturday, the Albert Hall will go stark staring funky on Sunday.

In one exhilarating, noisy programme the American composer John Adams will steer the Ensemble Modern through a kind of Spring History of Maverick American Music. It will range from minimalist pieces by Steve Reich and Philip Glass, and a new work by Adams himself, to extracts from Frank Zappa's *The Yellow Shark*.

Regrettably there won't be anything by Charles Ives, the pilgrim father of American musical eccentricity. But his spiritual successor, the 80-year-old Lou Harrison, will be represented by his Concerto for Organ and Percussion (reviewed below by Jamie James) — in which, it is whispered, the organist must administer several clouts on his keyboard with a mallet. That's something you don't get in Bach.

And the Prom will also unveil a commissioned piece by Michael Gordon, the new enfant terrible. He grew up in the Nicaraguan jungle (as one does), went to Yale, played in underground rock bands, toured an ensemble modestly called the Michael Gordon Philharmonic, and now writes pieces that proclaim their all-encompassing trendiness with titles such as *Yo, Shakespeare*. When he played the Queen Elizabeth Hall last year his encore was a Kurt Cobain number, which was seen as something of a mission statement.

For John Adams such a programme is less a concert, more the

Richard Morrison
meets the composer
John Adams, who
brings a feast of
American music to
Sunday's Prom

embodiment of a credo. Ever since this Harvard-educated musician decided, in 1971, to drive across America and settle in San Francisco — a symbolic rejection of the over-cerebral new-music establishment on the East Coast — he has revelled in the incongruous collisions, the crossovers, the carefree iconoclasm, that has always characterised the best American music. "There is no dominant stream in American music," he says. "That's its strength. And American culture has always celebrated the vernacular. The most vital advances are propelled by popular culture."

He is right. At the turn of the century Ives was already embracing marching bands, spirituals and street sounds in his music. Bernstein and Copland wrote their greatest scores under the influence of popular idioms. And present-day American composers writing in the anti-complexity style known as minimalism (which Adams declares to be "the only important musical development in the past 30 years") have consistently drawn inspiration from popular music.

"You can hear that in our Prom," Adams says. "Each of us is responding to the popular music of his era. Reich reflects jazz of the 1950s and 1960s. My piece responds to rock and salsa of the 1970s, and

Gordon's sounds are post-punk. It's impossible for an American composer not to be influenced by the vernacular. It's all around. Every time you sit in the traffic you hear somebody's killer sound-system."

But Adams, just turned 50, has responded to far more than the sounds in the air. He came to attention ten years ago with his opera *Nixon in China*, which stunned the world twice over — first for taking modern politics as its subject; and secondly for portraying Nixon, Kissinger and Mao not as caricatures but as tragic figures, brooding over their failures in music of exquisite melancholy.

That monumental work inaugurated a new genre: *opera*. Adams has so far contributed two more works to the species. *The Death of Klinghoffer* was a dark meditation on the Achille Lauro hijacking. Then came the pitifully-named *I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky*, ostensibly about the Los Angeles earthquake, but really a wry look at the American Dream turning sour.

Contemporary culture has spilled into Adams's non-operatic work, too. A violin and piano piece is called *Road Movies*; while his orchestral work, *El Dorado*, reflects a fashionable green concern about land despoliation.

Oddly, considering how much time Adams has devoted to opera, he professes ambivalence about the art form. "It's not the commanding idiom that it was a hundred years ago. Movies have taken over. Opera is a museum form now."

So why write operas? "Because it is still one of the few art forms that can exist on a mythic level and address the large issues of life." Is it distressing, though, when a work as important and accessible as

Nixon is ignored by virtually all European opera houses? "That says more about the conservatism of the opera industry than it does about the quality of the work," Adams replies. "Writing opera is like buying very long-term bonds. You don't expect an instant return."

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Outside the opera world, however, Adams is phenomenally popular. That won't surprise anybody who knows his *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, a four-minute cracker that will surely be a sensation at the Last Night of this year's Proms. The word "minimalist" is an ab-

surd reduction of such music, which has bags of passion, drive and drama. It welcomes listeners to its world. Dancers, too, love Adams. His *Fearful Symmetries* has been choreographed eight times.

Even the sterner critics are mellowing to Adams. "Yes, I don't

receive the trashings that I got ten years ago," says the composer. "I suppose that if you are around long enough, the critical establishment starts to put up with you."

John Adams conducts at the Albert Hall (0171-589 8212) on Sunday at 7.30pm. The concert is live on Radio 3



Last call: Darcey Bussell and Igor Zelenky in *Romeo and Juliet*

Before the break

Politics in the auditorium was one thing, with gilded-edged representatives of both the last and the current Government all present and correct, but then there was the politics on stage: who was to be there and why? Those who believe that the Royal Ballet has always had the fuzzy end of the lollipop in the Royal Opera House should take heart from the fact that there was noticeably more dance at Monday's "Farewell" Gala than there was open and that the Royal Ballet opened and closed both halves with that great symbol of continuity: Bernard Haitink conducting the beginning and the end.

The chief architects of the Royal Ballet's repertory were properly represented, Ashton with *La Valse* — a fine showcase for the company — and the magical *Dream* duet, and MacMillan with corresponding showpieces from *Romeo and Juliet* and *Manon*: Darcey Bussell and the Kirov's Igor Zelenky as ethereal in the former as Sylvie Guillem and Jonathan Cope were sensuous in the latter.

Viviana Durante and Irek Mukhammedov nearly stopped the show with *Diana* and *Acteon*, which I confess had hitherto escaped me, and with luck will continue to do so; it's delirious rubbish, irresistibly performed. In the popular *Corsaire* variation, Tetsuya Kumakawa proved to be one of those rare dancers who defies gravity at the height of his jumps — breathtaking.

The sharp-eyed will already have noted a curiously mix of guests and home-based artists, which along with a similarly cunning mix of past, present and future was also evident in the operatic items. As a representation of what the resident companies have achieved in the last 50 years, this programme was in a different class from last year's Gold and Silver Gala. The Pub Scene from *Peter Grimes* brought Heather Harper and Elizabeth Bainbridge out of retirement, and saw the house debut of the Cardiff Singer of the World prizewinner Christopher Maltman, plus Anthony Rolfe Johnson singing Grimes with inimitable mellifluousness and Sir Colin Davis conducting.

A second former music director, Sir Georg Solti, was on hand for Verdi; Plácido Domingo in Oello's

Farewell Gala Covent Garden

Death Scene, and Bryn Terfel in Iago's Credo. Both were in stentorian voice.

Sir Colin also conducted Felicity Lott, Anne Howells and Thomas Allen in *Cost'fan tute*, a nice teaser for his return to the company with this opera in the autumn, and Haitink returned for the most riotous item of the evening, the *Fidelio* quartet led by Josephine Barstow, and — less respectfully — for a wallow in Strauss, a sweetmeal from *Arabella* with Anna Tomowa-Sintow and Franz Grundheber, and the *Rosenkavalier* Trio with what I can only think of as Les Girls: Lott, Ann Murray and Lillian Watson, sweetmeats indeed.

The final item assaulted the tear-glands mercilessly: the scenery flew out and Darcey Bussell as the Lilac Fairy put the rickety old theatre to sleep, with both companies on stage gazing in wonder and affection at the scene of so much achievement. But that sleep will last only two years, not a hundred. Enough nostalgia, charmingly provoked last night: everyone's sights must be firmly on 2000.

For all their glitz, galas never quite find artists at their best and perhaps the real farewell came at Saturday's *Melstersinger*, when even critics purged years of contempt by paying for their seats and along with a genuine Covent Garden audience were treated to a performance in a hundred, with Haitink up on cloud nine and everyone on stage, not least John Tomlinson, giving that extra inch.

At the mention of chorus and orchestra in Jeremy Isaacs' upbeat, perfectly judged curtain speech, the audience roared its approbation, and that's what it's all about: starting from scratch 50 years ago, Covent Garden has built up a world-class opera and dance machine, and nothing — temporary closure, passing management blips, even malign governments — can change that.

RODNEY MILNES
• This review appeared in late editions of The Times yesterday

Since he took over as music director of the San Francisco Symphony two years ago, Michael Tilson Thomas has established himself as the most venturesome even visionary programmer on the American orchestral scene. He concluded the current season with an ambitious two-week festival entitled *Celebrations of the Sacred and Profane*, comprising five programmes — he conducted all of them — of music whose flame is sparked by the friction between our earthiest desires and our most spiritual aspirations".

The opening night of the festival emphasised the heavenly, coupling the American premiere of Gisele Scelsi's microtonal *Aion* and the Mozart Requiem. *Aion* is subtitled *Four Episodes in One Day of Brahma*, but the Indian subject appears to be intellectual more than musical. Scored for a low-

pitched orchestra — four tubas muted with rubbish-bin lids, low strings, and an array of percussion — the piece is densely textured. The Mozart proved to be a rather pallid, dispirited affair.

The week's high point was an all-Schubert symphonic programme — composed by many hands. It opened with the American premiere of Hans Werner Henze's exuberant fantasia on *Erlkönig*, followed by the rollicking huntsmen's chorus *Nachtgesang im Walde* and *Unfinished Symphony*. The songs were dispatched with suave Schubertian style by bass-baritone Nathan Berg. The evening's triumph was a superb performance of Luciano Berio's *Rendering*, based upon Schubert's sketches for his tenth, unfinished symphony.

The most uneven programme was the one given the most hype —

Celebrations of the Sacred and Profane San Francisco

an afternoon devoted to new music entitled *The Mavericks*, in which former Grateful Dead bass player Phil Lesh joined Tilson Thomas as presenter. It was difficult to understand why Lesh was there, except to lend a note of hipness, yet he seemed as hip as a maths teacher, slouching and mumbling in rumpled chinos.

The two men continually told the audience that the music it was hearing was radical and revolutionary, but the proceedings were tame enough, apart from Lou Harrison's Concerto for Organ and Percussion, a jubilant racket scored for a battery of instruments

including oxygen tanks, car brake drums and oil drums, and four songs premiered by David Del Tredici called *Gay Life*, setting texts by Allen Ginsberg and Federico Garcia Lorca.

Baritone William Sharp sang competently, but was very much outshone by the composer, who accompanied him with dazzling virtuosity on the piano.

Otherwise, the legendary minimalist Terry Riley noodled pointlessly at the keyboard for nearly half an hour like a pianist at a cosmic cocktail lounge, and Steven Mackey played some gutsy Hendrix riffs on electric guitar, backed by a string quartet, drums, and a wailing lead singer.

The festival's other programmes were devoted to Berg, Bach, Well and Berio.

JAMIE JAMES

John Higgins meets the man who will supply the sauce for Glyndebourne's Rossini

Outré for the Count



Jérôme Savary: from street clown to Glyndebourne director

The Beatles came to the Roundhouse and John Lennon in particular picked Savary's brains. "He was worried that the Beatles sound was becoming too 'clean'. He reckoned we were producing the right 'dirty' sound and asked how we did it. The answer was by a pitchfork chief — me." The chief still keeps in touch with his crew, whose members once included Luc Bondy, Micheline Presle and Delphine Seyrig.

After the Circus struck its tent for the last time Savary made his first forays into musical theatre via Offenbach. "I despised opera then as being a bourgeois entertainment and simply had memories of my mother playing *The Magic Flute* endlessly on the gramophone. But Frankfurt asked me to stage *La Vie parisienne* and I was then invited by Felsenstein to do *Le Voyage dans la lune* at the Komische Oper. He paid me almost nothing, but in 12 weeks' rehearsal I learnt most of what

there was to be learned about directing opera."

This little-heard Offenbach occupies a special place in the Savary career. He devised a different staging for Geneva in 1987 and there is talk of yet another version for the Bastille as part of the millennium celebrations.

It was a rather different musical, *Cabaret*, which landed Savary into the巧 of running the massive Théâtre du Chaiot, where his contract has just been renewed until 2000. Mirrored himself made the proposal after seeing the show. What caught the Presidential eye?

"Ah, well *Cabaret* is all about political compromise and he would have understood that," is Savary's characteristically provocative re-

ply. Another reason could have been the presence of Ute Lemper in the lead role and the quality of Savary's production.

The Chaiot appointment caused a bit of a stir, especially in right-wing circles. There were questions about putting a clown in charge of a state theatre. But it was gradually admitted that I am a deliberately popular director who sets out to fill seats. So the rightists now like me. There are good Savary shows and not so good ones, but there are no boring ones."

And so back to Rossini, who also knew a thing or two about catering for public taste. Savary has directed all his major comedies, though no serious operas. *Ory*, about the farcical efforts of a count to seduce a noblewoman while her husband is at the Crusades, looks ready-made for him. Ezio Toftoli, who works regularly at the Chaiot, is a highly decorative designer and is keeping it in period.

"I like ladies and I like *opéra buffa*. The best adjective to describe *Ory* is *paillard* [bawdy]. The original play was even more *paillard*, but Rossini's librettist, Scribe, cleaned it up a bit. Yes, it stays at the time of the Crusades. If I were 30 years younger I would probably have set it in a Hong Kong brothel. Now I leave that sort of thing to the new generation. But we will have a large bed rising from the stage in Act II when the Count tries to make love to his page believing he is the Countess Adèle. In it there will be three disembodied singing heads. It'll remind me of the Three Boys trilling away on a cloud in *The Magic Flute*."

This will be the second time he has directed *Ory*. The previous occasion was in Lyons for John Elliot Gardiner. "Lyons was a rush two-week job to fit in with a recording schedule. I remember John Elliot coming up to me after the first night and saying I hadn't put much work into the production but that it was great fun. This time round he'll probably say: 'Hm. Lots of work, but not much fun'."

Savary, as usual, was just kidding.

• *Le Comte Ory* opens at Glyndebourne (01273 813813) on Sunday

Soaring and swooping

If any one performance of *The Damnation of Faust* could make up for what happened to it a few weeks ago at the London Coliseum, this was it. Back in the concert hall, where it exclusively belongs, with some 500 choral voices and an orchestra grudging nothing in meeting its most extravagant requirements, it had every opportunity to rehabilitate itself as an incomparable masterpiece.

Even as an opera only "for the mind's eye" (as David Cairns describes it in his excellent programme note), *The Damnation of Faust* has its dramaturgical problems. Berlioz's habit of adapting his text to provide a home for stray musical inspirations — although he is by no means as self-indulgent

From mud to

Birmingham

about it in this case as he is in *Lélio* — is an obstacle to credibility. For all its quality in terms of technique, the first half of Sir Simon Rattle's interpretation with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra failed to register more than an acoustic effect, brilliantly achieved though it was.

From the beginning of Part III, where Marguerite appears, the atmosphere in Symphony Hall was quite different. Maria Ewing's soprano lies a little low for the part, which meant that she had difficulty in controlling the colouring of some of the notes above the stave. With her first entry, however, on a not very pretty but meaningful downward swoop, she gave notice that the role is real to her. By the time she came to her *Romance* she was singing beautifully.

She was clearly an inspiration to Vinson Cole, who had so far shaped Faust's vocal line with exemplary clarity and elegance, and who now found passion there too. He went so far as to try a swoop himself. Willard White, as an heroic survivor from the ENO production, is as experienced a Mephistopheles as any, his occasionally dubious French somehow adding to the macabre effect.

The orchestral playing, too, was on a different level. *The Minuet of the Will-o'-the-Wisp* in Part III was no less finely executed than the charmingly coloured *Dance of the Sylphs* in Part II, but at the same time it had the essential eerie edge.

As for the chorus — or choruses, including those in Birmingham for the Voices in the City festival — there was no weakness even in the tricky episodes. In the last two movements, *Pandemonium* and *Heaven*, the combined efforts of the CBS Chorus and Youth Chorus, the City of Birmingham Choir, the William Hall Master Chorale of Los Angeles and the Vancouver Bach Choir were devastating. If the barefoot children's choir added a *coup de théâtre*, Berlioz himself would have enjoyed it.

GERALD LARNER

LONDON

GREENWICH AND DOCKLANDS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: Among today's highlights is a concert by the renowned Baroque music group the Academy of Ancient Music, which is joined by the Taff's Chamber Choir, prop and music by Purcell and Handel. An international programme of dance includes Nancy Argenta and Tom Gurney Royal Chapel College, King William Walk, SE10 8QH. Festival Hotline: 0181-853 4424

CHIMPS: Gemma Bodinetz depicts a black comedy by Paul Goodwin: A young couple in their first home are driven to distraction by two persistent salesmen. Tickets £10-£12. Tel: 0171-732 9301. Tonight 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm. Mat 3.30pm.

RHYTHM STICKS: Two events, both part of the percussion festival currently in progress. Take place tonight 7.45pm, in the Fisherine Hall, which is an upmarket venue opposite the train from India, while at 8pm, in the Purcell Room, a concert of Korean traditional music song and dance continues strong performance. Tel: 0171-732 9301. Tonight 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm. Mat 3.30pm.

STEVENS OBSCURE: This academic young pianist with the sombre touch performs a wade-into programme of Bach, Rachmaninov, Harvey and Ravel. Tickets £10-£12. Tel: 0171-309 1811. From 8pm.

ELSEWHERE

CHILTERN HAMMER: The inimitable Festivales' pianist, yet another day of tuneful, tuneful songs, accompanied by the Naxos Ensemble offers two classical masterpieces by Brahms and Mozart coupled with a new work by Colin Matthews. (Private Pump Room) More

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hergle

Brahms can be heard in the evening as the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Paul Daniell performs the composer's Symphony No 3, as well as works by Mozart and Schubert. (From 7.45pm). Tel: 01202 320000. Mat and Sat 8pm. Mat 9.45pm. The Kalara Ensemble performs Schönbergs serialist masterpiece, *Pierrot Lunaire*. Festival Box Office: 01243 227979

CHICHESTER: Following her successful return to the stage in Old

Times two years ago, Julie Christie takes the title role in Marguerite Duras's *Suzanne*. Another. Sudden love with a man from a different social background (Adrian Lester) knocks her world askew. (Until 26 July). Tel: 01243 781312. Proven from 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Thur and Sat 2.30pm.

LEEDS: Adapted by David Nobbs from Thackeray's novel, Michael Birch directs *Vanity Fair* in a community production with a chorus of 40. Tel: 0113 246 2100. Open from 7.45pm. Mat and Sat 8pm. Mat 9.45pm. The Kalar Ensemble performs Schönbergs serialist masterpiece, *Pierrot Lunaire*. Festival Box Office: 01243 227979

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House of Lords

Law Report July 16 1997

Court of Appeal

Transfer while abroad not taxable

Inland Revenue Commissioners v Willoughby

Before Lord Nolan, Lord Mustill, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Clyde and Lord Hutton

[Speeches July 10]

Section 739 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, which sought to prevent the avoidance of liability to income tax by the transfer of assets abroad, did not apply where a taxpayer was not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom at the time he made the relevant transfer.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing appeals by the Inland Revenue Commissioners from the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Morris) (*The Times* January 4, 1995; [1995] STC 143) upholding a special commissioner's decision to disallow assessments to income tax for the taxpayers, Mr Peter Willoughby and Mrs Ruth Willoughby in respect of three Royal Life Insurance International Ltd offshore personal portfolio bonds.

Their Lordships held, further, that such bonds were not vehicles for tax avoidance.

Mr Launcelot Henderson, QC and Mr Rabinder Singh for the Revenue; Mr David Goy, QC and Mr Philip Baker for the taxpayers.

LORD NOLAN said that there was no dispute that the payments of premiums on the taking out of the bonds were transfers of assets to Royal Life for the purposes of section 739, nor was there any dispute about the amount of income arising from the investments comprised in the bonds which was the subject of the various assessments.

The premium on the first bond was, however, paid when both taxpayers were still resident outside the United Kingdom.

They had contended that for that reason alone no liability to tax could arise upon the income of the first bond.

Mr Henderson had submitted

that the taxpayers' suggested restriction of liability to individuals who were ordinarily resident at the time of transfer was unwarranted by the statutory language and would give rise to anomalies.

It would not be sensible, he argued, to distinguish between the cases of an individual intending to take up residence in the United Kingdom, who made a transfer of assets with a view to the future avoidance of United Kingdom tax and who settled here a few days after the transfer, and another individual acting with precisely the same intention who settled here a few days before making an identical transfer.

The sensible time at which to consider the question of residence, he submitted, was the time at which the income arose from the transferred assets arose, and the avoidance of tax would, but for the section, take place.

His Lordship said that the crucial words were those in section 739(1) which stated that the section was "to have effect for the purpose of preventing the avoiding by individuals ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom of liability to income tax by means of transfer of assets with the identification of such an individual".

What could the words "such an individual" refer to save for an individual of the kind described in subsection (1), that was an individual ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom seeking to avoid liability by means of transfers of assets?

The view taken in *Vesey v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (1990) AC 1148 that the individual to be charged under section 739 had to be the individual who made the transfer led inevitably to the conclusion that the individual concerned had to be the only type of transferor with whom the section was concerned, and that was a transferor ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.

Court adjourning the further hearing of Mr Judd's bankruptcy petition against John Anthony Williams.

HIS LORDSHIP referred to *In re Debtor* (No 72 of 1982), Ex parte Mumford Leasing Ltd v The Debtor (1984) 1 WLR 1143.

He said that the practice of granting repeated adjournments, however understandable, was one that had profoundly unsatisfactory consequences, namely to impose upon the creditor an ad hoc voluntary arrangement to which he would not have agreed and which would not deal comprehen-

sively with the debts, would not ensure that assets were distributed pari passu and would expose him in the risk that other petitions might be presented.

If the debtor were then adjudged bankrupt, it was found that the creditor had been overpaid relative to other creditors, he might have to return to the estate the repayments received for distribution pari passu.

Had the district judge appreciated those matters, he could not have made the order he did.

Accordingly, the appeal would be allowed and a bankruptcy order made.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue: Spechley Bircham.

MR JUSTICE HOOPER said

His Lordship accepted that in consequence, the immigrant tax avoider who made his disposals before taking up residence in this country would escape liability under the section. But it would be fruitless to speculate whether that consequence was foreseen and accepted, or arose through inadvertence.

His Lordship would not, in any event, regard it as sufficiently astonishing in itself to cast doubt on the natural meaning of the words used.

In the case of the other two bonds, which were taken out after the taxpayers had become ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, section 739 was plainly applicable unless it was displaced by section 741 of the 1988 Act where the taxpayer had shown that tax avoidance was not one of the purposes of the transaction.

The principal feature distinguishing a personal portfolio bond from other bonds issued by Royal Life was that the purchaser of the personal portfolio bond retained the ability to choose, switch and manage the investments comprised in the fund to which the bond was linked.

Personal portfolio bonds amounted to some 2 per cent of the total of bonds issued by Royal Life, the remainder being bonds linked to a wide range of investments, as selected by Royal Life. It was only the personal portfolio bonds which were regarded by the Revenue as falling foul of section 739. The remainder, it was accepted, were exempt by reason of section 741(a).

Mr Henderson had submitted that the underlying reality of the matter was that the holder of the Royal Life personal portfolio bond continued to manage and benefit from his own portfolio of investments, but by the insertion of the bond structure he escaped tax on the income and gains from those investments as they arose.

Parliament could not sensibly have intended the statutory taxation regime for offshore life

sively with the debts would not ensure that assets were distributed pari passu and would expose him in the risk that other petitions might be presented.

If the debtor were then adjudged bankrupt, it was found that the creditor had been overpaid relative to other creditors, he might have to return to the estate the repayments received for distribution pari passu.

Had the district judge appreciated those matters, he could not have made the order he did.

Accordingly, the appeal would be allowed and a bankruptcy order made.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue: Spechley Bircham.

MR JUSTICE HOOPER said

His Lordship considered the judgment of Lord Browne-Wilkinson in *X v Bedfordshire Council* (1995) 1 FLR 384 and *Barrett v Enfield London Borough Council* (The Times April 22, 1997) and went on to analyse the relationship between a local authority and a foster parent, apply-

Negotiation costs not deductible

Couch (Inspector of Taxes) v Administrators of the estate of Calon, deceased

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Morris and Lord Schiemann

[Judgment June 19]

Professional costs incurred by administrators in negotiating a share valuation with the Inland Revenue and pursuing an appeal against a subsequent assessment to capital gains tax were not cost incurred in ascertaining the market value of the shares so as to be deductible under section 32(2)(b) of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979, now contained in section 38 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains 1992.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal by the taxpayers, the administrators of the estate of Mr Philip S. Calon, deceased, from the decision of Mr Justice Rimer (*The Times December 28, 1995*; [1996] STC 201) that had reversed a decision of a special commissioner by holding that the costs of pursuing an appeal against an assessment to capital gains tax following a disposal of shares in 1988 were not deductible.

Mr William Massey, QC, for the taxpayers; Mr Launcelot Henderson, QC, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE MORRIT

Duty to tell foster parents about child

W and Others v Essex County Council and Another

Before Mr Justice Hooper

[Judgment July 1]

A social worker placing a child with foster parents had a duty of disclosure to the foster parents, before and during the placement, such information about the child as a reasonable social worker would provide in all the circumstances.

A written agreement made between a local authority and foster parents did constitute a contract and it was not contrary to public policy to give it binding effect.

Mr Justice Hooper so held in the Queen's Bench Division when striking out claims for misfeasance in public office and breach of contract, and declining to strike out claims for negligence and negligent misstatement, made by the plaintiffs, Mr and Mrs W and their four children, against Essex County Council and Anthony Golden.

Mr Allan Levy, QC, and Mr Arnold Cooper for the plaintiffs; Mr Edward Faulls, QC and Mr Andrew Warnock for the council; Mr Jeremy Simson for the second defendant.

MR JUSTICE HOOPER said

that at his death in September 1987 Mr Calon had owned shares in Yorkshire Switchgear Group Ltd. In April 1988 the shares were sold by the taxpayers for £3.27 million.

The Revenue had assessed the taxpayers to capital gains tax of £494,430 on the footing that the shares had a value of 35p on the date of Mr Calon's death. The taxpayers had contended for a value at that date of 50p or 50p.

After lengthy negotiations an appeal was heard, the special commissioner determining a market value of 50p and allowing the professional costs incurred by the taxpayers up to and including the hearing of the appeal as an allowable deduction.

Mr Justice Rimer determined that such costs were not costs and expenses deductible for the purposes of section 32(2)(b).

It was common ground that the drafter intended to provide for a right in the field of capital gains tax broadly equivalent to the concession in the field of income tax. But he had intended to go no further than that and permit deduction of all costs incurred by a taxpayer in any action for the determination of the market value of the assets. Such a right would be unique in the field of income tax.

In the light of the taxpayers' argument, the first point to be

made was that the words "wholly and exclusively" appearing in section 32(2)(b) in relation to expenditure incurred for the purposes of the assessment were not to be read as governing the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of the subsection.

The contrast between the costs of producing accounts from which to compute profits and the conduct of a tax controversy with the Crown was first drawn by Lord Greene, Master of the Rolls in *Rushder Hall Co Ltd v Keens* ([1948] 2 All ER 378) and adopted by the majority in the House of Lords in *Smith's Potato Estates Ltd v Holland* ([1948] AC 508).

The costs of the relevant provisions in the Finance Act 1965 must have been aware that that was where the line had to be drawn.

It was common ground that the drafter intended to provide for a right in the field of capital gains tax broadly equivalent to the concession in the field of income tax. But he had intended to go no further than that and permit deduction of all costs incurred by a taxpayer in any action for the determination of the market value of the assets. Such a right would be unique in the field of income tax.

The effect of, but not the reasons for that conclusion was to preclude the deduction of costs by a taxpayer in conducting a tax controversy with the Inland Revenue.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Schiemann agreed.

Solicitors: Brooke North & Goodwin, Leeds; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Placement (Children) Regulations (SI 1991) No 910.

It had all the usual features of a contract, being an agreement between the two parties, and including provision for payment of allowances and expenses.

The defendants submitted that the relationship between a local authority and foster parents was statutory and not contractual and that it would be contrary to public policy to give the agreement binding effect.

His Lordship rejected that argument, stating that the statutory position was not inconsistent with the agreement. The agreement did constitute a contract, although it did not contain the implied term contended for by the plaintiffs.

Solicitors: Sternberg Reed Taylor & Gilbert; Worley Redmayne & Kershaw, Chelmsford.

Correction

In Fletcher Estates (Harlescott) Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment (The Times July 11) Mr Robin Purchas, QC and Mr Timothy Comyn appeared for the applicants; Mr Jeremy Sullivan and Mr Rabinder Singh for the first respondent.

**FAX: 0171 782 7828 (TRADE)
0171 782 7799 (PRIVATE)**

Repeated adjournments not apt

In re Williams (a Bankrupt)
Where a bankruptcy petition had been presented and the debtor had indicated that he could repay his debts by instalments, but there was no reasonable prospect that he would make full repayment within a reasonable time, it was not open to the court to grant repeated adjournments of the bankruptcy proceedings.

Mr Justice Lloyd so held in the Chancery Division on June 13, allowing an appeal by Vincent Sydney Judd, a petitioning creditor, against the decision of District Judge Hollis in Hastings County Court adjourning the further hearing of Mr Judd's bankruptcy petition against John Anthony Williams.

HIS LORDSHIP referred to *In re Debtor* (No 72 of 1982), Ex parte Mumford Leasing Ltd v The Debtor (1984) 1 WLR 1143.

He said that the practice of granting repeated adjournments, however understandable, was one that had profoundly unsatisfactory consequences, namely to impose upon the creditor an ad hoc voluntary arrangement to which he would not have agreed and which would not deal comprehen-

sively with the debts would not ensure that assets were distributed pari passu and would expose him in the risk that other petitions might be presented.

If the debtor were then adjudged bankrupt, it was found that the creditor had been overpaid relative to other creditors, he might have to return to the estate the repayments received for distribution pari passu.

Had the district judge appreciated those matters, he could not have made the order he did.

Accordingly, the appeal would be allowed and a bankruptcy order made.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue: Spechley Bircham.

MR JUSTICE HOOPER said

His Lordship considered the judgment of Lord Browne-Wilkinson in *X v Bedfordshire Council* (1995) 1 FLR 384 and *Barrett v Enfield London Borough Council* (The Times April 22, 1997) and went on to analyse the relationship between a local authority and a foster parent, apply-

ing the public policy considerations set out in *X v Bedfordshire Council* (at pp 149 to 751).

Although decisions concerning foster placements could be very delicate, His Lordship could not see in fairness to the foster parents who played an important role in looking after children, that they should be denied information with which they should reasonably be provided by the council for the protection of the child.

The defendants had argued that it was not just and reasonable to impose a common law duty of care on them.

His Lordship considered the judgment of Lord Browne-Wilkinson in *X v Bedfordshire Council* (1995) 1 FLR 384 and *Barrett v Enfield London Borough Council* (The Times April 22, 1997) and went on to analyse the relationship between a local authority and a foster parent, apply-

ing the public policy considerations set out in *X v Bedfordshire Council* (at pp 149 to 751).

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Chris Plummer, Marketing Manager, Focal Point Kitchens Ltd, 100

High Street, Tooting Bec, SW17 3JU, Tel: 0171 349 3322

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

RACING: LORD WYATT BOWS OUT WITH RECORD PROFITS

Jones intent on increasing Tote's off-course turnover

By CHRIS MCGRATH



Jones understated

WITH his successor sitting patiently beside him, the outgoing Tote chairman yesterday demanded that the record profits he was announcing be doubled inside "two or three years". It was a brusque indication that Lord Wyatt appears finally to have discovered, after 21 years, what his critics have long suspected — that the Tote does indeed have the potential to lead racing out of its funding maze.

Many feel that the Tote under Wyatt has been too meek, in contrast to his own autocratic style. But he retorts that he has bequeathed the means to realise the sport's most ambitious ends. After much delay, Peter Jones takes over on August 1, yet it was appropriate that Wyatt should be able to preside over a final annual report — clinging doggedly to the credit for a thoroughly upbeat set of figures. A much satisfied figure in racing, yesterday he sought

the last laugh. "I know Peter Jones will do a good job," he said. "He has a good hand to play. He must succeed."

Wyatt certainly leaves the Tote in the rudest financial health, and — with Tote Direct terminals in 4,500 betting shops by the autumn — there is a buoyant air of expectation greeting the new regime. For

instance, Wyatt yesterday made it clear that the Tote would be willing to ease the passage of any bid for William Hill by Bass, owners of Coral (the first big firm to embrace Tote Direct). Bass could expect to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and Wyatt indicated that the Tote, which owns 209 shops, would be prepared to take no fewer than 100 Hills' shops out of the equation.

William Hill remains the last of the big bookmakers to resist Tote Direct, the recruitment of Ladbrokes in February being savoured in an annual report detailing profits up by 21 per cent to £12.8 million. The same month, Parliament permitted the Tote to join bookmakers in the Irish Lottery and 49% of the daily numbers game.

This growth area is energetically promoted by the big bookmakers, as the turnover generated is not subject to racing's levy. All the Tote's profits, by contrast, go to

racing. Its contribution to the sport was a record, up five per cent to £8.7 million.

With ongoing investment in software, Wyatt said: "I'm certain that within two or three years the Tote should be making a profit of £25 million available to racing."

Next to Wyatt, with his ostentatious Havana and bow-tie, Jones makes for an appealing contrast, understated and down-to-earth. He quietly restored a sense of perspective to the Tote's achievements — and its future endeavours, starting with a new "superbet" next year.

The Tote at present takes less than one per cent of the off-course market," he said. "I would like to see that share grow to four or five per cent plus during my time as chairman. That will require the full distribution of Tote Direct, and we will have to produce new bets and market them effectively."

Racing results, page 45

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.15 Lend A Hand, 2.45 Durgarne, First, 3.20 Bowfibre Grange, 3.50 Series Of Priority, 4.20 Mystique Air, 4.50 Hadelid.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.15 SWALE PASTURE NOVICE MEDIAN

AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O, 22, 88s; 7D) (12 runners)

1	41	BEST IN TIME 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	Dawn Meade
2	40	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	L. Codd
3	39	WIDE EYE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	A. Crossman
4	38	MUD FUND MATCH 6 (D. N. H.) 6-1	P. Mullins
5	37	ON THE MATT 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
6	36	CHALICE 11 (D.F.S.) 6 (M) 6-1	J. Codd
7	35	SANS RIVALE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
8	34	ROCKETTE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	N. Codd
9	33	OLIVER JOY 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
10	32	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
11	31	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
12	30	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
13	29	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
14	28	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
15	27	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
16	26	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
17	25	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
18	24	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
19	23	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
20	22	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
21	21	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
22	20	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
23	19	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
24	18	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
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27	15	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
28	14	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
29	13	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
30	12	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
31	11	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
32	10	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
33	9	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
34	8	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
35	7	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
36	6	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
37	5	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
38	4	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
39	3	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
40	2	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
41	1	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd

GOING: 45-55, 7-8, 12-13

DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.45 ST. ANNE'S CLAIMING STAKES

(22, 53; 18m, 1m 3f 214yo) (8)

1	104	BUZZLE MAID 12 (D.F.S.) 6-1	D. Mullins
2	103	DURANCE FIRST 12 (D.F.S.) 6-1	M. Mullins
3	102	FOX SPARROW 20 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
4	101	HAWAII BEATS 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
5	100	ON THE MATT 11 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
6	99	CHALICE 11 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
7	98	GAY ABANDON 14 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
8	97	GOOD ON YOU 10 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
9	96	MYSTIQUE AIR 14 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
10	95	ROCKETTE 7 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
11	94	OLIVER JOY 14 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
12	93	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
13	92	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
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74	31	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
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83	22	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd
84	21	SWALE PASTURE 6 (D.F.S.) 6-1	J. Codd

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, sees the most exclusive stop on the Australians' schedule

Country retreat at end of tourist trail

THE Australians go back to work today, their midsummer repose complete. If the early part of their itinerary was mistakenly and expensively cramped, the past week has offered a timely breather and they have used it beneficially. They are approaching the decisive phase of their trip ominously chipper.

Since winning the Manchester Test, the Australians have behaved more like tourists than touring cricketers. They have seen the sights of Edinburgh and played golf at Dalmahoy and St Andrews. Four players attended the British Grand Prix and then, on Monday, they all did something entirely different and played a game of cricket.

It was not the game itself that was different but the venue. One thing that sets cricket apart from other sports is its infinite variety of settings. Everyone has a favourite ground but for rural splendour, manicured presentation and sheer unashamed Englishness, Wormsley takes some beating.

Many will not have heard of Wormsley and many more will not have seen it. There is a simple reason for this: it is a private wonderland. The ground, carved out of wooded hills, acts as the front lawn of J Paul Getty's country seat. Here, before an invited audience enjoying hedonism on a grand scale, the Australians played their last fixture before the serious business resumes against Glamorgan at Cardiff.

They played it wide-eyed, spending the off-field moments clicking their cameras, spotting celebrities and goggling at the rolling Oxfordshire scenery. The sun shone and the scene was to die for.

The Australians, most of whom are more beguiled by things quaintly English than they would care to admit, will cherish the day.

Three things are said regularly of Getty. One concerns his great wealth, another his reclusive nature and the third his passion for cricket. The third has been assisted by the



England's glory: J Paul Getty's private ground at Wormsley provides a stunning setting for the Australians to end their mid-tour break.

first, for he has become one of the game's great benefactors, and it seems to have countered the second, too. On Monday, the great recluse entertained 400 guests and behaved magnificently.

Lords and ladies abounded, as did mighty men of the military. Marianne Faithfull was there and just about the entire Jagger family. Mick's father reminiscing of the day that he went for a trial with Yorkshire and thought he might be accepted until they discovered that he was born in Chelmsford.

Cricket luminaries were everywhere and Geoff Marsh, the

Australia coach, had an hour-long chinwag with his predecessor, Bob Simpson. Most of the Surrey committee seemed to be present, along with a chap named Major who is thought to be worth nominating, and Alex Tudor had barely bowled the first ball of the game before the Bedser twins were giving their views on the weak bodies and minds of modern fast bowlers. In such an apparently timeless setting, it was appropriate.

Wormsley, however, is a new ground. It might not look it, with its thatched pavilion and matching scoreboard but the first match was staged

only five years ago. The following year, Getty's love of cricket was manifested in a different way. He liked Wisden so much, he bought the company.

He has about a dozen fixtures a year and the only uninvited spectators, other than those who find their way in via the bridgeways of the Chilterns, are estate workers and villagers of the four local parishes. It is faintly feudal, but nobody seems to mind.

On Monday it was like Arundel without the crowds. There was a military band before play but no intrusive public address. The tempo-

rary loss behind the marqueses were equipped in a way to put most hotels to shame. There was ice-cream dispensed from a bicycle, but nothing so vulgar as a hot-dog stall or a beer tent. And there was Fimm's and champagne at midday.

This, evidently, is one of the traditions of Wormsley but Dickie Bird did not repeat his gift of the first occasion he umpired here. Seeing the midday drinks invitation on the guests' programme, he had brought all the players off on the stroke of noon, expecting something fruity with a kick.

Getty's staff, unfazed, pro-

duced a trayful. The traditional pace of the day is charmingly anachronistic. Play starts at 11.30am and lunch, at 1.30pm, lasts for a notional hour, usually longer. There are no overs limitations and the declaration — inevitable on such a sublime pitch — is complicated by the fact that tea is induced by the need to stretch out a shade, too.

No surprise, then, that the game finished drawn. It was not a joke match, however, and nor was it without some highly-distinguished cricket. This had virtually been assured on the day that Faith Hawkins, who organises the

Getty teams, received a call from "Mr G", as she calls him with deference, suggesting that, on this occasion, his XI should be competitive. He knew his Australians.

A few previously invited players were thus gently stood down on the grounds of being long in the tooth. One such has-been was Mike Procter, who took no offence and enjoyed the day as a guest. His replacement, Graeme Hick, was one of six Test players in a

man.

IAN RUSH, the Wales striker,

could end his playing career

with Swindon Town in the

Nationwide League first division. Rush, who has been told

that he can leave Leeds United,

has had discussions with Steve McMahon, the Swindon manager.

"I've spoken to Ian and he's

keen to come to here," McMahon, who played alongside Rush at Liverpool, said yesterday. "The only problem is that he has a year of his contract left at Leeds and we're trying to sort out the financial side of things."

Rush scored only three goals in 42 appearances for Leeds last season and was one of five first-team players left out of the club's pre-season trip to Sweden yesterday. Brian Deane, Tomas Brolin, Carlton Palmer and Tony Dorigo were the others.

Tottenham Hotspur have

completed the signing of David Ginola, the Newcastle United winger, for £2 million.

"Tottenham was always my first choice," Ginola said.

"The big challenge for me is to help the club into Europe this season."

Danny Murphy, 20, the

Crewe Alexandra midfield player, has joined Liverpool for £1.5 million, which could later rise to £3 million, and Kevin Phillips, 23, the Watford striker, has moved to Sunderland for an initial £25,000.

Reading have signed Ray Houghton, the Ireland and former Crystal Palace midfield player, as player-coach.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, is expected to capture his eighth foreign player in three months later this week. Jerome Boateng, a left back, was due to leave Deportivo La Coruna, of Spain, for Highbury yesterday but the deal was delayed.

Mark Hateley, 35, the former

England and Rangers forward, has become player-manager of Hull City, the third division club. He has appointed Billy Kirkwood, the former Rangers youth team coach, and Dundee United manager, as his assistant.

Alvin Martin, the former West Ham United defender, is the new manager of Southend United.

SAILING

Golden day dawns for Golding

GROUP 4 was heading smoothly towards the finish line in Southampton harbour last night as the first yacht home in the BT Global Challenge 30,000-mile round-the-world race John Goodbody writes.

Barring a last-minute disaster, the yacht was expected to finish about 2hr 45min clear of *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, with *Concert* 2hr 15min farther back.

Group 4, skippered by Mike Golding, a professional sailor and former fire-fighter, was sailing parallel to the English coast in coastal drizzle and before a 15-20 knots south-westerly wind. One of the crew members, Alex Sizer, a Surrey student, should have a double celebration today — victory in the toughest yacht race in the world and her 23rd birthday.

On Monday, it had looked as if *Wave Warrior* might put pressure on *Group 4*, which had struggled to maintain her course and had more-accurately 24-hour run of more than 200 miles. *Wave Warrior* had gained 11 miles but lost eight overnight when the wind dropped. At daybreak yesterday, she was 23 miles behind the leader, with *Concert* 22 miles farther back.

McGrath masters the Dutch attack

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

SCARBOROUGH (Holland won toss): Yorkshire beat Holland by 82 runs

THIS one-sided contest illustrated that Holland are not as well-equipped as some may imagine. Their learning process continues. Gavin Hamilton, Scotland-born and usually batting at No 8, proved it by plundering 60 from 32 balls.

More predictably, Anthony McGrath swept beyond his third Scarborough Festival fifty in four days to reach 114, with 11 fours and three sixes from 134 balls, and consign the Holland batsmen to a damage-limitation process.

They achieved this muted target, losing by a respectable margin without remotely threatening victory. Klaas Jan van Noortwijk made a half-century, as he did during the 49-run defeat by England at Peshawar in the World Cup August 19.

The show, at the National Film Theatre, focuses on past battles for the Ashes and includes reels of Don Bradman playing in England in 1930, the 1938 and 1948 Australians, and what is billed as the "world's first cricket film" — Ranjitsinhji practising in the nets in Australia in 1897.

There will also be recently discovered film of a match between Sussex and Lancashire at Horsham in 1913 and a tribute to the late Denis Compton. Tickets cost £6.25 (concessions £4.75) from the NFT box-office (0171 928 3232).

Cynics suggested that this may have had something to do with the young batch of players.

Captained by Robert Key, of Kent, they won five matches and tied the sixth, with Holland. They were managed by John Abrahams and coached by Geoff Arnold. Their next big assignment is the ICC Youth World Cup in South Africa early next year.

FATHER TIMES

YORKSHIRE

A M Morris bowled 100 Deller 100

A G McGrath bowled 100 Deller 100

G M Hamilton c Bowler b Deller 100

D Bayliss c Bowler b Deller 100

E Stephenson c Bowler b Deller 100

A C White not out 100

J M Tait not out 100

Total (8 wickets) 257

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-100, 2-100, 3-200

4-200, 5-200, 6-200, 7-200

8-200, 9-200, 10-200

HOLLAND

B Zuidenberg c White b Hamilton 100

D Zijlstra c Bowler b Hamilton 100

R van der Steege c Bowler b Hamilton 100

K J van Noortwijk c Bowler b Hamilton 100

T B M de Leede c Bowler b Hamilton 100

E Stephenson c Bowler b Hamilton 100

A C White not out 100

Deller not out 100

Total (8 wickets) 216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-100, 3-100

4-100, 5-100, 6-100, 7-100

8-100, 9-100, 10-100

Holland 10-100, 11-100, 12-100, 13-100

14-100, 15-100, 16-100, 17-100

18-100, 19-100, 20-100, 21-100

22-100, 23-100, 24-100, 25-100

26-100, 27-100, 28-100, 29-100

30-100, 31-100, 32-100, 33-100

34-100, 35-100, 36-100, 37-100

38-100, 39-100, 40-100, 41-100

42-100, 43-100, 44-100, 45-100

46-100, 47-100, 48-100, 49-100

50-100, 51-100, 52-100, 53-100

54-100, 55-100, 56-100, 57-100

58-100, 59-100, 60-100, 61-100

62-100, 63-100, 64-100, 65-100

66-100, 67-100, 68-100, 69-100

70-100, 71-100, 72-100, 73-100

74-100, 75-100, 76-100, 77-100

78-100, 79-100, 80-100, 81-100

82-100, 83-100, 84-100, 85-100

86-100, 87-100, 88-100, 89-100

90-100, 91-100, 92-100, 93-100

94-100, 95-100, 96-100, 97-100

98-100, 99-100, 100-100

101-100, 102-100, 103-100

104-100, 105-100, 106-100

107-100, 108-100, 109-100

110-100, 111-100, 112-100

113-100, 114-100, 115-100

116-100, 117-100, 118-100

119-100, 120-100, 121-100

122-100, 123-100, 124-100

Golf? Is that a dirty word in !Kung?

Sport — well, it's a funny old game. Sport is every person's passion, from rationality. We take capricious likes and dislikes to an athlete, a team, an occasion, a sport; and then we are prepared to defend our caprice to the death.

Who reads the sports pages all the way through? Not a soul. Everybody has a taste for the sporting life has a favourite sport. Most have a good few others to which they are sympathetic, and everybody has a sport or two that they simply cannot stand.

Horse racing is, perhaps, the clearest example. For most people, racing is either the game of games, or something to which they are, at best, utterly indifferent. Now, as the sporting world braces itself for the Open Championship, the annual four-day festival of golf, I am brought face-to-face with my own sporting limitations.

I am not narrow-minded about sport, but I am happy — eager — to make an exception of golf. I am happy to watch.

write about, revel in many sports that are treated with utter contempt. I love gymnastics and ice skating, and I think that dressage is close to being the game of games.

I have even watched and enjoyed such obviously daft sports as rhythmic gymnastics or competitive rock-climbing. Nor do I insist on physical exertion as a defining principle of sport: I am prepared to admire the skills of top performers in snooker, or the cold nerve of the champions in darts; or the lust for conquest in the chess master.

But golf? No, the red mists descend. In certain moods I will make out a logical case for denying the sport the status of a true sport but, in my heart, I know it is nothing but blind prejudice. I could write as an environmentalist, and of the obscene herbicidal green of its myriad courses, the airport lounges of landscape architecture. I could claim that no activity in which men wear black, watch tartan trousers is worthy of a serious person's consideration.

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

But the simple truth is that golf gets right up my nose and that is the beginning and the end of the matter.

I have written on every sport in the calendar, including sailing, which I do not understand, stage-race cycling, Greco-Roman wrestling and weightlifting. In the past 12 months, I have used, accurately, (show-off) such terms as

kovacs, piaffe and quadruple toe. But to write of birdie and bogey would stick in the lap-top.

People have said to me: "Oh, go to such-and-such, watch so-and-so, and then you will understand." So I walked a while with John Daly at St Andrews. Big chap. Small ball. Whack! And all around me people gasped. It was as if they were watching the Pope. It was like being told a dirty joke in the language of the !Kung Bushmen. Golf? I just don't get it.

I used to feel that way about Formula One. I used to giggle when people said things like: "My God! Mansell's smoking!" But then I met Nelson Piquet, who was charming and wicked and hilarious and cunning and fast. And I met Ayrton Senna who was, as he himself once put it, Senna.

And if I think that Formula One is a sport that has lost its way, I understand it as the most sensually involving of all sports and its summit as done. All the same, to like any sport at all is to dwell in a glasshouse.

Moral: either all sports are silly, or none is. There is no room for manoeuvre between these points.

As the Tour de France

GOLF: WOODS DRAWN TO PLAY WITH LANGER AND ELKINGTON IN OPENING ROUNDS

Tiger could be late for his tea

By MEL WEBB

IN ANY professional golf tournament, and particularly in the major championships, players and spectators alike are left under no misapprehension as to who are the stars and who the extras.

In spite of half-hearted protestations to the contrary, the draw is not, strictly speaking, what it is claimed to be. It does not have the out-of-a-hat, straight-as-a-die, pot-luck style of an FA Cup draw, for instance. The aristocracy of the game rarely play alongside the humble tilers of soil, especially in the first two rounds, and both gentrified and proletarian know it. A draw, at least in the literal sense, it ain't.

It is, rather, a gentle, harmless and totally understandable swindle: if the books are not exactly cooked, they are at

their tee-times will allow them to be finished by teatime.

Most of the great and the good, therefore, will have been reasonably happy with their start times at this 120th Open Championship. Some big names do go out in the afternoon tomorrow and, unless his father saves him some, the biggest name of the lot will probably miss the Earl Grey and the smoked salmon sandwiches. At least he will get back in the hutch in plenty of time for tiffin on Friday.

Tiger Woods leaves the first tee in his first Open as a professional at 1.05pm in the company of two other major championship winners, Steve Elkington and Bernhard Langer. Having admitted that tee-times were important, he greeted the draw with equanimity. "I've got a pretty good pairing," he said. "I'm playing with two friends of mine — they are both real nice guys and fun to talk to."

The three-ball setting forth at 8.35am will provide an intriguing study, containing as it does Colin Montgomerie and Mark McNulty, men who can putt for gold, and another, Tom Watson, who, these days, cannot putt for toffee. "It's a good draw," Montgomerie said. "I don't want to be sitting round all day waiting to play, and I've got two players with me who are both capable of challenging for the title. It couldn't be better."

The earliest start given to a member of the golfing nobility, at 8.15am, goes to Greg Norman, who plays with Lee Westwood, considered by Montgomerie to be Europe's best player under 30, and Steve Stricker, of the United States. Westwood is a confident young chap who has the priceless gift of being completely overwhelmed by even the most exalted of partners.

Tom Lehman, the champion, plays with Miguel Angel Martin, the little Spaniard who will be competing against Lehman in the Ryder Cup in September, and Vijay Singh, of Fiji, at 1.25pm.

The players who are the chosen elite really could not care less with whom they are picked to play. They are not afraid of anybody, they know that on their day they can beat anybody, so why should they mind who is standing alongside them on the tee?

Their playing partners are masters of supreme indifference to them, but they do care about other things, the first and most important of which is what time they will be called upon to strike their first shots. By and large, they prefer that



Faldo follows the flight of an iron shot during his practice round at Troon yesterday

TEE-OFF TIMES FOR THE OPENING TWO ROUNDS

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated		Scotland		Wales	
0715 & 1135: S Webster, A Cabrerizo (Agi) D Howell	P U Johnson (Smw)	Mon (Japan), J Nuddus (US)	1215 and 1245: P U Johnson (Smw)	J Furyk (US), Y Kaneko (Japan)	1215 and 0755: D Edund (Swed), J Furyk (US), Y Kaneko (Japan)
0725 and 1145: T Purzel (US), R Bozell, W Westwood (G)	E Romero (Agi)	T Watson (US), M McGovern, T Watson (US), M McGovern (US)	0845 and 1305: R Russell, F Couples (US), E Romero (Agi)	M Weibe (US), C Pavlin (US)	0845 and 0915: M James, M Weibe (US), C Pavlin (US)
0735 and 1155: P Blackmar (US), J Spence, S McCarron (US)	R Coates (Agi)	1215 and 1245: A Coker, M Calvache (US), T Ito (Japan)	0905 and 1225: I Woosnam, R Albany (US), T Ito (Japan)	1225 and 0915: C Roocs (Irl), L Janzen (US), M Long (NZ)	0905 and 0915: B Facon (US), J Parnek (Swed), R Green (US), P Harrington, M Brock (US), P McIlroy (US)
0745 and 1205: H Matsui (Japan), P McSelroy, B Watts (US)	P Stoen (US)	1245 and 1345: R Albany (US), R Albany (US), T Ito (Japan)	1245 and 1345: B Facon (US), B Lenger (Ger), S Elkington (Aus)	1245 and 0915: P Hedstrom (Swed), B Lenger (Ger), S Elkington (Aus)	1245 and 0915: B Facon (US), B Lenger (Ger), S Elkington (Aus)
0755 and 1215: R Godden (SA), S Torrance, P Stoen (US)	P Stoen (US)	1345 and 1445: P McFarlane, B Andrade (US), M O'Meara (US)	1345 and 1445: P McFarlane, B Andrade (US), M O'Meara (US)	1345 and 0915: P Hedstrom (Swed), J Haas (US), K Jim Jong-duck (Kor)	1345 and 0915: P Hedstrom (Swed), J Haas (US), K Jim Jong-duck (Kor)
0805 and 1225: P Lorand (Aus), * C Watson, J Mangieri (US)	P Stoen (US)	1445 and 1545: A Magge (US), P Curv (J) Coceres (Arg)	1445 and 1545: A Magge (US), P Curv (J) Coceres (Arg)	1445 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)	1445 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)
0815 and 1235: G Norman (Aus), L Westwood, S Stricker (G)	P Stoen (US)	1545 and 1645: K Duke (US), S Bottomley, P McFarlane (US)	1545 and 1645: K Duke (US), S Bottomley, P McFarlane (US)	1545 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)	1545 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)
0825 and 1245: R McIlroy (US), T Faldo (G)	P Stoen (US)	1645 and 1745: R Derron (US), P Baker, R Davis (Aus)	1645 and 1745: R Derron (US), P Baker, R Davis (Aus)	1645 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)	1645 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)
0835 and 1255: G Norman (Aus), L Westwood, S Stricker (G)	P Stoen (US)	1745 and 1845: P O'Malley (Aus), B Howard, J Payne	1745 and 1845: P O'Malley (Aus), B Howard, J Payne	1745 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)	1745 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)
0845 and 1305: P Lorand (Aus), * C Watson, J Mangieri (US)	P Stoen (US)	1845 and 1945: G Brand Jr, G Day (US), P McFarlane (US)	1845 and 1945: G Brand Jr, G Day (US), P McFarlane (US)	1845 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)	1845 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)
0855 and 1315: R McIlroy (US), T Faldo (G)	P Stoen (US)	1945 and 2045: P Fuksa (Swe), J Kelly, * J Miller	1945 and 2045: P Fuksa (Swe), J Kelly, * J Miller	1945 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)	1945 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)
0905 and 1325: G Norman (Aus), L Westwood, S Stricker (G)	P Stoen (US)	2045 and 2145: M Bradley, P Tersanov (US), P McFarlane (US)	2045 and 2145: M Bradley, P Tersanov (US), P McFarlane (US)	2045 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)	2045 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)
0915 and 1335: G Norman (Aus), L Westwood, S Stricker (G)	P Stoen (US)	2145 and 2245: L Bachelder, K Ersson (Swe), C Clark (Eng)	2145 and 2245: L Bachelder, K Ersson (Swe), C Clark (Eng)	2145 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)	2145 and 0915: P Lehman (US), P Lehman (US), V Singh (Pak)
0925 and 1345: G Norman (Aus), L Westwood, S Stricker (G)	P Stoen (US)	* denotes amateur	* denotes amateur	* denotes amateur	* denotes amateur

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Answers from page 45

AERONOMY

(e) The science of the upper atmospheric region where dissociation and ionisation are important. It is the science of the atmosphere from about 30 km to its outer limit.

SCHUPPANZHIG

When Beethoven entrusted to his old friend "Fat Scuppanzhig" the premiere of Beethoven's Op. 127, the first of the late quartets, he extracted a promise from all four players a pledge to do their best. The premiere proved a fiasco. Poor Scuppanzhig protested that "he could easily master the technical difficulties but it was hard to arrive at the spirit of the work: the ensemble was faulty, because of this fact and too few rehearsals."

YOUNG'S MODULUS

(a) A constant indicating the amount of a physical effect and that of the force producing it. In particular, Young's modulus of elasticity is the quantity by means of which the extension or contraction of a bar of a given material and the amount of tension or pressure causing it may be stated in terms of each other.

MOOCHA

(b) A short skirt worn as a loincloth by the aboriginal inhabitants of eastern South Africa.

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TELEVISION CHOICE

Painful path to fulfilment

The Day That Changed My Life
BBC2, 7.30pm

Being stabbed 35 times by a paranoid schizophrenic would change anybody's life, though Julie Chühns' long-term effect was as much spiritual as emotional or physical. At the time of the attack in March 1986, she had a high-powered job in advertising which gave her a superficially glamorous lifestyle but little time to think beyond the job. But as she fought for her life she had a beyond-body experience which convinced her that there was a bigger picture. She was fortunate in marrying a man sympathetic to her need to give up her career and start again. The couple moved abroad and settled in Spain. Where she paints, writes poetry and, and discovered unexpected talent as a singer. She tells even the most harrowing part of her story with an honesty that shucks nothing.

Wildlife Showcase
BBC2, 8.30pm

It seems no part of the former Yugoslavia can escape its violent past, even in a wildlife film. But central to this report from the river Soca, Slovenia, is a story not of the recent conflict of a bloody summer during the First World War. In 1915, the valley through which the Soca runs became one of the war's bloodiest battlefields. Exhausted and hungry troops were forced to take what food they could and the Soca's fish stocks were devastated. The giant marble trout, one of the glories of the river, came close to extinction. The film shows how Jose Ocvirk, a local fish biologist, saved the species by breeding it in captivity and follows the trout's continuing battle for survival against such non-human predators as snakes, otters and brown bears.

Reputations: Simon Wiesenthal
BBC2, 9.00pm

For the first time, this series deals with a subject who is still living and able to reply to criticisms made of him. *Reputations* is in the business of reassessing public figures and often succeeds in revising them downwards. But Wiesenthal, for half a century the obsessive pursuer of Nazi war criminals, comes out largely intact. Yes, he has a

huge ego and enjoys publicity. Yet, his activities have landed him in acrimony, even with natural allies such as the World Jewish Congress. His tactics have not always been clever. But for a Polish Jew who spent four years in Nazi concentration camps his passion is understandable and it has been superbly well directed. Saskia Baron's film carefully teases out Wiesenthal's role in the capture of Adolf Eichmann and explains his refusal to join the condemnation of Kurt Waldheim's alleged Nazi past.

QED: Monty Roberts, A Real Horse Whisperer
BBC1, 10.00pm

A lot of people have been killed trying to break mustangs, we are told, so Monty Roberts is putting himself on the line. We met Roberts in a previous QED film. He is the Californian cowboy who tames wild horses not by the usual means of trussing them up in ropes but by talking to them. He can get unbroken horses to accept a saddle and rider within 30 minutes.

KWNDUP
tail sales
recovery

at US banks

exports slip

upply Dutch

airport deal

improves

rs ahead

en successor

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

An enjoyable drive, but who was steering?

Please excuse me, while I take a sledgehammer to dent a very inoffensive little nut. It's Driving School (BBC1), you see, it's still worrying me. Yes, yes — very funny, huge ratings and wasn't it wonderful last night when Maureen grabbed her examiner by the ears to kiss him when she finally passed at the eighth attempt? But it is — and here comes the sledgehammer — the future of documentary-making?

There are three ways of making a documentary. The first is how most of us imagine they are made. A film-maker chooses his or her subject and in the process of filming it, discovers what it's all about and what a lot of people think about it. This is objective film-making and strikes most of us honest.

The second way involves the film-maker choosing a subject and deciding what they want to say before they shoot a single frame.

They, too, then do a lot of filming, rejecting anything that doesn't fit the original thesis and keeping everything that does. This is subjective film-making and strikes most documentary-makers as powerful.

The third approach, however, is one favoured by Driving School. This involves the film-maker choosing a subject and then deciding that — hang on, it's too short for either one or two. I'm going to tell them all what to do and, if they don't look out, what to say, too. This, to be technical, is known as make-uppy film-making — great fun when the subject is learning to drive, but worrying for anything more heavyweight.

Just how much of Driving School was staged for the cameras was difficult to tell, because Francesca Joseph, the director, had chosen her cast with exquisite care. But the number of times not one but two perfectly focused, wobble-

free cameras just happened to be there when something happened, suggested quite a lot.

They were there when Maureen, taking time-off from quoting Thomas the Tank-Engine in the police urinals, was having a little cry in the Lada... just as one her former instructors drove past. They were there in church when Maureen's husband just happened to ask her devout instructor whether he ever prayed for pupils before a test. They were there when Danny, recently dumped by Gillian from Preston, decided that his love life had to go on. Alas, the poor lad will never know whether the new object of his affections agreed to go out because she fancied him or because she fancied being on television. Yes, the cameras were there for that, too.

But, whatever I think of the technique, the result was wonder-

REVIEW

Matthew Bond



ful television. The only thing I never understood was why all those police drivers were in it. Had she escaped from somebody else's documentary?

By contrast, Tool Stories (Channel 4) made a decidedly disappointing debut, resembling not so much an example of method one, two or three but more a case of somebody either losing their nerve or changing their mind. It was a

mess. On paper it had looked promising — a professional builder visits alleged DIY experts and shows them how to do the job properly. It sounded confrontational and fun. On the screen, however, it looked like a fly-on-the-plasterboard series about DIY chores which hadn't really worked, so somebody had roped in George Herbert, master builder, to see if that helped.

It might have, if better editing had allowed George to be in three places at once, but it didn't. As a result, his sole contribution last night was showing an inexperienced couple how to lay quarry tiles on a perfectly level floor. Not even a master builder could pretend that it was difficult and to be fair he didn't, which may have been honest but made for very dull television.

Over on Channel 5 (now there's a phrase you don't see very often) Plastic Fantastic continued, with a

popular variation of documentary method two: tell your interviewees one thing and then make a film that is exactly the opposite. As a result, all sorts of slightly right-faced women lined up to wax lyrical about the benefits of plastic surgery, while extended footage of the surgery itself eloquently put the argument against.

Finally, William Shatner turned out to be just about the only person I had heard of as Channel 4's new but definitely familiar science fiction quiz. Space Cadets got off the ground with two teams of alleged sci-fi celebrities and definitely not enough in the way of introductions from Greg Proops, the chairman. Interestingly, Shatner had clearly refused to wear the Star Trek-style uniform that the rest of them were wearing, but energetically joined in what passed for fun as everybody worked far too hard to get jokes out of old film clips. It was humour, Jim, and definitely as we know it.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (57061).

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (72055).

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (3491158).

9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (1815284).

9.50 Kilroy (T) (5573322).

10.30 Who'll Do the Pudding? (36451).

11.00 News (T) and weather (7052120).

11.05 Due South A restaurateur's son is kidnapped by gangsters (n) (T) (7755662).

11.50 Good Neighbours (2059593).

12.00 News (T) and weather (5556903).

12.05pm Call My Bluff (223351).

12.35 Neighbours (T) (8818210).

1.00 News (T) and weather (75142).

1.30 Regional News (4249351).

1.40 Perry Mason: The Case of the Reckless Romeo (1993) An actress is accused of murdering a talkshow host. With Barbara Hale and Geraldine Ferrer. Directed by Christian L. Nyby (T) (3595719).

3.10 Gutney (9408332).

4.00 Popsey (T) (793474) 4.10 The Thunderbirds (7930158) 4.20 Morph TV with Tony Hart (4179055) 4.35 Prince of Atlantis (T) (5985550) 5.00 Newsworld (T) (1018968) 5.10 Bright Sparks (4695851).

5.25 Neighbours (T) (5562454).

6.00 News (T) and weather (871).

6.30 Regional News Magazine (351).

7.00 Animal Hospital Revisited The last of the series returns to Whipsnade Zoo for an update on Sparky the deer and the giraffe born in front of the cameras. Plus the antinic elephant and the vulture which couldn't fly (T) (6158).

7.30 Hot Gadgets A new electric toothbrush, a voice-activated CD changer, an eye-operated camcorder and a phone which can help out in the kitchen (T) (6159).

8.00 The National Lottery Live Boyzone join Card Smiles (T) (4622425).

8.15 Selection Box: Porridge Celebrity fans discuss the popular comedy (428516).

8.30 Points of View (T) (510332).

9.00 News (T) regional news and weather (5693) 9.29 National Lottery Update (793210).

9.30 Men Behaving Badly Tony develops a sudden interest in astrology (46239).

10.00 QED: Monty Roberts — A Real Horse Whisperer Californian cowboy Monty Roberts has a remarkable gift for taming horses (T) (159790).

10.30 The X-Files: Die Hard Die Verletzt. Scully and Mulder uncover evidence of black magic, sexual abuse and demonic sacrifice at the local high school (T) (110581).

11.35 Star Trek and Jones Mai and Griff rehash the opening credits to Goldfinger (T) (558871).

12.05pm The Night They Raided Minx's (1968) Britt Ekland plays an Amish girl who defies her strict religion and dominating father to become romantically involved with a burlesque performer. Also with Jason Robards. Directed by William Friedkin (5565643).

1.40 Weather (2233755).

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: History of Maths:

Non-Euclidean Geometry (597832).

6.25 Design for People (798129) 6.50

Clinical Trials (5278993).

7.15 See How Breakfast News (9390448).

7.30 The Moons (7059816) 7.55 Actaeon (T)

(690158) 8.20 Christopher Crocodile (3290784) 8.25 Johnson and Friends (3483054) 8.35 The Record (247968) 9.00 Cartoon (5920852) 9.10 The Phil Silvers' Show (T) (7201422) 9.35 Great Mysteries and Myths of the 20th Century (2408784) 10.00 Teletubbies (22993).

10.30 Saint Joan (1957) with Jean Seberg, Anton Walbrook, Richard Widmark, George Bernard Shaw's play, adapted for the big screen by Graham Greene, directed by Otto Preminger (5439326).

12.20pm A-Z of Food (5850801) 12.30

Working Lunch (20425) 1.00 Joshua

Jones (2159177) 1.10 Vaquero: The

Unlucky Cowboy (59506149) 1.40

Blockbusters (59406784) 2.05 Australia Wild (5209526) 2.25 Merus and Music (1831239) 2.40 Movie (T) (1687326) 2.55

Westminster with Nick Ross (5495851)

3.35 The Petay (1964) 3.45 Sleptick comedy, directed by and starring Jerry Lewis (37647051).

5.40 The Flying Vets (251087).

6.00 Star Trac: The Next Generation (T) (611822).

6.45 International Golf: The Open Preview of this year's tournament (847934).

7.30 The Day That Changed My Life: Stranger in Paradise (T) (7177).

8.00 One Foot in the Past The dispute over the future of an old cinema in Devon; exploring the remains of London's River Fleet, and Faine, Comtesse de Chambon, tour Chateaubriant (3484).

8.30 Wildlife Showcase The Soca river in Slovenia which is home to the giant marble trout (T) (9055).

9.00 Simon Wiesenthal (9.00pm)

9.30 Inspector Morse: The Ghost in the Machine When valuable erotic paintings are stolen from a stately home, Morse and Lewis find themselves delving into the minds and morals of the aristocracy (T) (Followed by the National Lottery result (8055)).

10.10 Coronation Street Anna finds herself in the public eye (T) (603).

10.30 Inspector Morse: The Ghost in the Machine When valuable erotic paintings are stolen from a stately home, Morse and Lewis find themselves delving into the minds and morals of the aristocracy (T) (Followed by the National Lottery result (8055)).

10.40 Gayle's World Brenda Gilhooly's guests include "it" girls, Doreen from Common Cabs and the Goths (T) (885500).

11.10 Live at Jongleurs with Mark Hurst, Ricky Grover and Russell Peters (T) (742552).

12.35 Regional Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (389369).

1.00 A Father's Revenge (1987) with Brian Dennehy, Joanne Cassidy and Helen Hill Patton. A father is distraught when he learns his air stewardess daughter is being held by a group of terrorists. Directed by John Herzfeld (492122).

1.20pm The Midnight Hour (32291).

1.30pm Learning Zone: OU: Chemistry 1.06

Chemistry 1.30 Chemistry 2.00 Star Gazing (77456) 4.00 English Heritage (36524) 4.30 Unicef in the Classroom (35914) 5.00 Basic Skills (13104) 5.30 Voluntary Matters (34920).

6.00pm The Big Breakfast (61968) 9.00 Home and Weather (7052120).

6.30pm The Open Window Show (T) (2059593).

7.00pm The Open Window Show (T) (2059593).

7.30pm The Open Window Show (T) (2059593).

8.00pm The Open Window Show (T) (2059593).

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9.00pm The Open Window Show (T) (2059593).

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5.00pm The Open Window Show (T) (2059593).

5.30pm The Open Window Show (T) (2059593).

6.00pm The Open Window Show (T) (2059593).

**RACING 43**

Jones sets out
stall as new
Tote chairman

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

Scotland's champion ideally prepared to fulfil great expectations at Troon

Montgomerie feels right at home

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

YEARS ago in the Ayrshire town of Troon, a little boy would come out of a sturdy flat-fronted house on South Beach, the road nearest the Firth of Clyde, and turn left to walk the children's course at Royal Troon Golf Club. Golf was not the only passion of our chubby sporting hero. Later, he would mature into an attacking batsman and a fast bowler at cricket and a goalkicker with a powerful boot on the rugby field.

The land on which our prodigy took his first golfing swipes is at present covered by enough thatch to house an army on the eve of a medieval battle. The little boy, though, remembers it clearly enough to bring a smile to his face. "We had great fun there," Colin Montgomerie said.



Tee-off times 46
Simon Barnes 46

"Me, my brother, my parents, too. They have flattened it to provide land for the tented village. In those days I used to walk to the course. I couldn't get lost. It was only 150 yards away."

Tomorrow, Montgomerie sets out on an adventure every bit as great as those he took all those years ago. Europe's No 1 player for the past four years, and ranked fourth in the world, behind Tiger Woods, Ernie Els and Greg Norman, starts the 126th Open Championship in the most relaxed frame of mind and with his form as good as it could possibly be. Two victories in Europe and a second place in the US Open in the past eight weeks indicate that his game has reached a level he has rarely, if ever, reached before



Montgomerie, smiling and relaxed yesterday, believes he has never had a better chance of success than in this Open Championship. Photograph: Marc Aspland

and maintained it for longer than he dared hope.

Thus, the ultimate prize of victory in the Open awaits Montgomerie at the club where his father has been secretary for 11 years and will remain so until retiring at the end of next month. "Since I heard seven years ago that the Open was coming here in

1997, this is the major championship I have been looking forward to," Montgomerie said. "This, to me, is home, this is where my family are, where my wife is from and where my father lives and works. This is it as far as major championships are concerned for me."

Yet, to hoist the oldest prize in professional golf above his head on Sunday evening, and perhaps to say "wow!" as Tom Lehman did so expressively last year, will require Montgomerie to put behind him a dismal record in recent Open championships. Four times in the past five years, Montgomerie has failed to progress beyond the first two rounds. It has become one of golf's debating points: why can't Montgomerie do better in the Open?

Montgomerie believes that

the poor weather in tournaments immediately before the Open has not helped his swing. Yet there is a suspicion that Montgomerie needs the reference points of an inland course such as those on which the US Open is played and on which he has done so well, rather than the barren, usually treeless landscape of an Open course.

"There is no secret that I know my way around here and obviously I am feeling quite confident about performing better than I have in the past," Montgomerie said. "I have got to go out there and prove myself. I am OK physically and I am OK mentally. The question is: Can I cope with the pressure? The shots I have been hitting have been good. I am playing the best golf of my career. I am hitting it straight off the tee, my irons

are quite accurate and I am putting very well right now."

"That is the secret. You can't score what I have been scoring recently without holing putts. You know that out of a field of 150 someone is going to putt very well. Not just for one day, but for four days and that someone is going to be someone in the top ten in the world. I have got to make sure it's me and not somebody else."

As Montgomerie spoke, clouds as grey as battleships had taken up station overhead. Rain fell from time to time in sudden, vicious showers. The wind had swung from the northwest to the southwest and suddenly the best sort of Open weather was arriving as if on cue.

In this grey town, Montgomerie's name is on everyone's lips — not only because of his associations with Troon.

"He is playing awfully well right now," Tiger Woods said. "He has an amazing record in major championships. It is just a matter of time before he breaks through and wins one. He is knocking on the door in practically every one."

Nick Price said: "I think Monty is going to play well. He didn't peak last week as he sometimes does."

Steve Elkington, who beat Montgomerie in the play-off for the 1995 US PGA championship, was another who favoured the Scot's chances.

"Everyone over on our side of the Atlantic has considerable respect for Colin's play."

Elkington, who sent Montgomerie a fax of commiseration after beating him in Los Angeles two years ago, said:

"He has great talent. His time will come."

That boozing at the US

CYCLING 45

Ullrich claims
yellow jersey in
Tour de France



Hollioake selected
by England
at youth
team level

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

BEN HOLLIOAKE, who has captured public imagination like no teenage cricketer for a generation, bringing growing demands for his inclusion at Test level, must instead return to the nursery slopes of the international game for his next representative honours.

Hollioake was named yesterday in a 13-strong England Under-19 party to take on Zimbabwe next month. Significantly, however, the selection applies only to the two one-day internationals at Southampton and Hove that begin the programme, leaving open the possibility that Hollioake will be released from one or more of the four-day games.

Surrey, his county, believe strongly that both Hollioake and Alex Tudor, the fast bowler, have outgrown age-group cricket and are better served playing in the county championship.

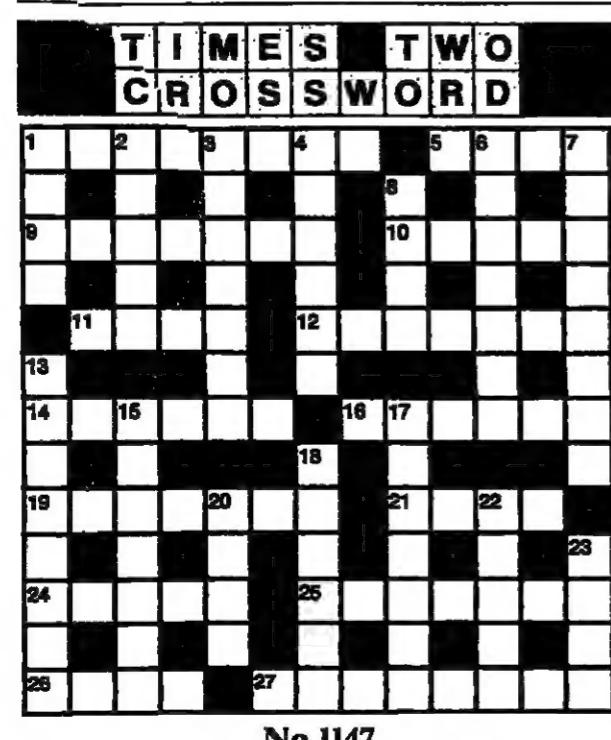
Similar claims have been made on behalf of Owais Shah, by Middlesex, and David Sales, by Northamptonshire. Both are also included in a squad, which ought to be too good for a country whose own age-group structure is still its infancy. The team is to be led by Andrew Flintoff, of Lancashire, and ten of the chosen group have already played at first-class level.

The view of at least one senior England selector, Mike Gatting, is at variance with that of Micky Stewart, director of excellence for the England and Wales Cricket Board, a strong believer in the agreed policy that age-group sides must always be favoured. Concessions, however, seem likely to be made.

Hollioake alone of those in this party is almost certain to be involved with the senior England side on overseas tour this winter. While it is important for the stature of under-19 cricket that this tall man appears in a series, his cause, and that of the England team, cannot be furthered by keeping him there.

Under-19S: SQUAD: A. Flintoff (Lancs), O. Shah (Middlesex), D. Sales (Northants), B. Hollioake (Surrey), D. Nash (Middlesex), Z. Morris (Notts), G. Betty (Warwickshire), J. Tait (Glamorgan), D. Coates (Glam.), C. Reid (Gloucester), R. Sidebottom (Yorks)

Getty's idyll, page 44
Chance for Essex, page 44



No 1147

ACROSS
1 Computer info store (8)
5 Rabbit's tail (4)
9 Sedative soothng remark (7)
10 African country: Voltaire play (5)
11 Gaifer; oyster spawn (4)
12 Come to understand (7)
13 Space vehicle: reprimand (6)
16 Consented (6)
19 Official journal (7)
21 (Wood) cut (4)
24 Child martyr: her Eve, Keats (5)
25 Shorten (lit. work) (7)
26 Row (eg of seats) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1146
ACROSS: 1 Attendant 6 Age 8 Stoical 9 Rejoice 10 Gide 11 Psalmody 13 Ideals 14 Sexism 17 Mystique 18 Gaze 20 Maori 21 Promise 22 Aid 23 Cooperaent 24 Schedule 25 Okay

DOWN: 1 Aspegai 2 Two-edged sword 3 Nick 4 At last 5 Thriller 6 Authoritative 7 Enemy 12 Failing 15 Mae West 16 Jumped 17 Mamba 19 Sofa

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1142
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Lamp 3 Handicap 9 Teddy 10 Gavotte 11 Tellers 12 Avon 14 Detest 16 Zephyr 18 Brie 19 Antique 22 Aquatic 23 Crime 24 Schedule 25 Okay

DOWN: 1 Latitude 2 Muddle through 4 August 5 Deviate 6 Cut to the quick 7 Peel 8 Hypo 13 Greenery 15 Sweated 17 Marvel 20 Tax 21 Pass

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is £1 Ramachandram, Minster Court, Darlaston, West Midlands. 2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is £1 Rhodes, Glendower Park, Adel, Leeds. All flights subject to availability.

months after being named as the Great Britain men's team captain and within a year of winning two silver medals at the Atlanta Olympic Games, in which he was Britain's most successful athlete, was unceremoniously dumped. When the team was announced yesterday, Black was named only for the 4x400 metres relay.

Black, who led the building of a solid wall of industrial relations between the British Athletics Association and the BAF, began to pick-axe the bricks yesterday. "Not one of the selectors had the common courtesy to pick up the phone and inform me of their decision," Black said. "I had to find out for myself, I find that absolutely staggering."

"I feel they have not shown a shred of decency. I am very angry. It is bad man-management."

Black missed the race, excusing himself after suffering a viral infection, but was prepared, with an extra week's training, to reveal his form in Hechtel. However, Malcolm Arnold, the British Athletic Federation (BAF) performance director and one of six selectors, said yesterday: "The selection committee felt they could resolve it yesterday on the evidence before them."

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Arnold insisted that selectors had stuck to the selection policy that highlighted that

current form will be an important selection criterion". He also made an absurd suggestion that he would ask the International Amateur Athletic Federation for an invitation for Black to run the 400 metres in Athens along the lines of those issued to all defending world champions.

Baulch, at 24, may have his best years ahead of him but, compared with Britain's newlook sprint squad, he is something of a veteran. Without Linford Christie on the team for an international championship for the first time in 13 years, Britain's main sprinters now are not long out of their teens. Ian Mackie, Darren Campbell and Marlon Devonish, chosen for the 100 metres, average 22 years of age. In the 200 metres – 13 years after the last British team for a global championships was named without John Regis – Doug Walker, Owusu Dako and Julian Golding, average age 23, are voted against him.

None can be expected to make a final, but at least Britain will be represented, which is more than can be said for the 10,000 metres. Such is the paucity of talent that, once Jon Brown and Liz McColgan had made up their minds not to seek selection and Rob Denmark had opted for the 5,000 metres, there was nobody left worth picking.

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Black, angry

Britain team, page 45